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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

War on terrorism

Graner prisoner abuse case: The soldier shown most prominently in photos of prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq has returned to a U.S. military base and will have a hearing before a military judge Monday, his attorney said.

Spc. Charles Graner Jr., 36, of Uniontown, Pa., was returned under military escort to Fort Hood, Texas, this week, his civilian defense attorney, Guy Womack, said Wednesday.

Statements by President Bush and military leaders have tainted any potential military panel, Womack said, and he will seek to have the case dismissed during preliminary hearings next week.

States

Woman's execution: The Texas parole board has recommended delaying the execution of a woman accused of killing her husband and two young children, leaving the chance for a reprieve in the hands of the governor.

Gov. Rick Perry can agree with the board's 5-1 vote or allow the execution to go ahead as scheduled Wednesday. Perry spokeswoman Kathy Walt said late Tuesday the case was under review.

Frances Newton, 39, could become the first black woman executed in Texas.

Turnpike strike: The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission said Tuesday night that it reached a tentative contract with striking toll collectors, ending a walkout that began a day before Thanksgiving.

The toll collectors were scheduled to return to work their next scheduled shifts, beginning at 11 p.m. Tuesday, turnpike spokesman Bill Capone said.

The agreement, which is still subject to union ratification, was reached around Tuesday evening, officials said.

Blake trial: A jury of seven men and five women was selected Wednesday to decide whether actor Robert Blake murdered his wife, Bonnie Lee Blakey.

Six alternate jurors, three women and three men, also were chosen. The panel was ordered to return Monday morning for opening statements.

Blakey was shot May 4, 2001, in a car near a restaurant where she and Blake had just dined. Blake pleaded not guilty to murder and solicitation of murder.



Lyndie England case: Pfc. Lyndie England arrives at the XVIII Airborne Corps Staff Judge Advocate Building at Fort Bragg, N.C. for an Article 32 motion hearing Wednesday leading up to her Jan. 18 court-martial on abuse charges stemming from photos of her pointing and smiling at naked Iraqi detainees at Abu Ghraib prison. Her lawyers moved Wednesday to throw out statements she made when first questioned about the abuse, including that reservists were just "joking around, having some fun."

Nightclub fire: Attorneys representing families of some of the 100 people killed in the West Warwick, R.I., nightclub fire as well as a number who were injured have agreed to drop CBS Broadcasting Inc. as a defendant in one of the lawsuits filed in the aftermath.

Lawyers for both sides signed a stipulation dropping the claims against CBS. The stipulation was entered into the court record on Monday.

CBS attorney Michael DeLuca said CBS was originally named in the suit because plaintiffs thought it had control over WPRI-TV. The CBS affiliate employed one of the nightclub's owners and a cameraman

who was at the club recording tape for a story on building safety when the fire began.

World

Powell in Haiti: Secretary of State Colin Powell met on Wednesday with Haitian political leaders and other opponents of ousted President Jean Bertrand Aristide in Port-au-Prince in what is likely his last visit to Haiti as the United States' top diplomat.

Shortly after Powell entered the National Palace in the Haitian capital for meetings with President Boniface Alexandre and Prime Minister Gerald Lortoux, gunfire erupted outside. It was not clear whether the shots were aimed at the palace, but a palace security officer said they appeared to come from a single passing car.

China mine explosion: The death toll in a huge coal mine explosion in central China rose to 166 on Wednesday, government radio reported, making it the deadliest accident in the country's disaster-plagued mining industry in years.

The report on the Web site of China National Radio came after officials said rescue efforts were blocked by fires and toxic fumes in the Chenjiashan coal mine, which was hit by an explosion Sunday.

"All 166 miners in the mine are dead," the report said, citing an unidentified spokesman for the rescue headquarters. It didn't say whether more bodies had been found or give other details.

South Korea nuclear experiments: North Korea vowed Wednesday to make South Korea's past secret nuclear experiments a top priority for discussion in six-nation nuclear talks aimed at ending the communist North's nuclear weapons programs.

The North's new maneuver threatens to further complicate the prospects for the stalled talks, as Washington and its allies are struggling to set a date for resuming the nuclear negotiations. A meeting scheduled for September failed to take place because the North refused to attend.

Alleged spy flights: North Korea claimed Wednesday that the U.S. military conducted at least 190 spy flights against it in November, seeking an opportunity to invade.

"This is a clear indication that the U.S. imperialists are watching for a chance to mount a pre-emptive attack on the [North], while frantically pursuing their hostile policy towards it," said the North's official Korea Central News Agency.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

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Tokota deems UH-1N copters 'completely safe'

BY VINCE LITTLE
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Despite three precautionary landings in the past four months, the four UH-1N helicopters assigned to the 459th Airlift Squadron will not be temporarily grounded for an extended safety inspection.

"There has been discussion of it, but no action taken," Col. Mark Schissler, the 37th Airlift Wing commander, said at a news conference Wednesday afternoon on Yokota's flight line. "We are sensitive to the concerns of our Japanese neighbors, but we make decisions based on our operational needs."

"We are flying completely safe airplanes, and I have full confidence in all of our practices here."

After a UH-1N crew made a precautionary landing Nov. 23 at Yokota's Chofu Airfield when an abnormal transmission light indicator popped up in the cockpit, Schissler ordered a review of Yokota's maintenance procedures. It took about two days, he said, and no lapses were discovered.

"Everything had been followed properly," Schissler added. "I am completely satisfied with the people who perform maintenance here. Our investigation found

they were doing everything correctly."

Investigators blame the most recent problem on a faulty light in the cockpit, not a malfunction of the helicopter's transmission, Schissler said.

Last week's precautionary landing was the third for a Yokota helicopter crew since Aug. 19. The first took place in Yokotama after engine problems surfaced. On Nov. 2, a UH-1N team detected a leak in the helicopter's hydraulic system and had to land on a baseball field near Numazu City in Shizuoka Prefecture.

None of the landings resulted in an injury or damage to the aircraft.

"Those precautionary landings are the safest thing to do — you look for the safest place to set the helicopter down," Schissler said. "No one was ever in any danger, and the aircraft was under complete control the whole time. That's quite different from being forced to land because of an emergency."

The 459th Airlift Squadron has not had a major accident since its inception in 1993. The unit won the Pacific Air Forces Flight Safety Award the past two years.

Since 1997, Yokota's UH-1Ns have safely flown more than 10,000 sorties — all of them trans-

port and training missions — totaling more than 9,800 flying hours. "Safety is my No. 1 priority," Schissler said. "I'd also like to point out that we have a great relationship with each of our surrounding communities and that we understand the concerns of our Japanese neighbors."

"Flying helicopters is a key part of our operational mission here at Yokota Air Base. Although we operate an aging fleet of UH-1 helicopters, I have full confidence that we are properly maintaining these aircraft to safely perform our important airlift mission."

—Vince Little at
Email: vinclittle@starsandstripes.com

Misawa chaplain to cruise away with Pentathlon prize

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Chalk it up to divine intervention, sheer luck or Fridays spent at the wood shop, but Maj. Wendell Brennan and his wife, Deb, are going on a cruise.

Brennan, the senior Protestant chaplain at this northern Japan base, was one of three "five level" grand-prize winners in Pacific Air Forces Pentathlon, an online board game that rewarded players for using services-run organizations, from clubs to veterinary clinics, at U.S. air bases in the Pacific.

Brennan won a seven-day Hawaiian cruise for two, with round-trip airfare from Misawa to Hawaii and three nights' lodging at a hotel. He and his wife plan to go in March.

"I've always wanted to do a cruise, so this is really exciting," Brennan said Wednesday as base officials presented his prize packet.

"We'll try not to gain too much weight," he quipped. "There's 11 different restaurants on this boat."

In its second year, the contest is designed to enhance awareness about services and award services patrons, according to information from Misawa's 35th Services Squadron. Services organizations gave

out tickets to patrons between Aug. 1 and Oct. 31. To play, participants registered at www.pacfive.com and logged their game piece numbers. By earning more game pieces, players could move through five different levels and qualify to win increasingly more expensive prizes in a drawing. Instant prizes such as T-shirts, movie tickets and DVDs also were awarded at each level.

Other grand-prize winners at the top level included Yokota Air Base's Tech. Sgt. Cesar Castillas, who won a Hawaiian vacation for two. A \$2,000 cash award went to a player from Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, officials said.

Misawa and Yokota had several other winners at lower prize levels. At Misawa, Staff Sgt. Rebecca Griffin won a cross-trainer. Chris Looney, a staff sergeant at Yokota, earned \$1,000 in cash, while Yokota family member Deborah Moon received an iPod digital music player.

"There's a variety of ways of winning when you participate in services' activities," said Brenda Akamuna, 35th Services Squadron assistant marketing director.

Brennan said the cruise is the first prize he's ever won. The chaplain said he usually picked up a ticket on Fridays when he spent part of his day off at the Skills Development Center's wood shop. He also earned game pieces when eating at the



JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

Brig. Gen. Bill Rew, left, 35th Fighter Wing and Misawa Air Base commander, presents Maj. Wendell Brennan, right, and his wife, Deb, second from right, with their Hawaiian cruise prize packet Wednesday morning. Brennan was one of three top grand prize winners in the PACAF Pentathlon online board game contest.

club for lunch and logging workouts on FitLinx, a computerized fitness monitoring system available at Potter Fitness Center.

"I always talked about giving Deb a cruise on our 25th wedding anniversary," he said, noting that was 10 years ago.

—Jennifer H. Svan at
Email: jhsvan@starsandstripes.com

Airport adds defibrillators

TOKYO — Narita International Airport's passenger terminals and cargo areas now are equipped with defibrillators for persons suffering cardiac arrest.

Forty-two automated external defibrillators (AEDs) were made available as of Tuesday, said a Narita International Airport Corp. spokesman. The defibrillators are within three minutes of any location in the passenger terminals and cargo area, he said.

The installation marks the first time the airport has equipped passenger terminals with AEDs, the spokesman said. The move follows the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare's July decision to let the general public operate the paddle-like devices, which administer electrical jolts to restart stopped or irregular heartbeats.

The machines will be marked with an illustration of a heart and a lightning bolt and labeled with the letters "AED."

Sagami Depot holds tree lighting

Sagami Depot will hold a tree-lighting ceremony from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday at Gate 5, according to U.S. Army Japan officials. After the ceremony, participants are invited to join Christmas caroling around the street at a Japanese hospital.

From staff reports

Japanese officials mull revision that allows two on motorcycles

Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Japanese officials have yet to decide how to implement for status-of-forces-agreement personnel a revised law allowing motorcyclists to carry one passenger on certain freeways, Japanese officials said Wednesday.

Under the traffic law revised in June, motorcyclists 20 or older who have had a motorcycle license for more than three years will be allowed to ride double on freeways, a National Police Agency spokesman said.

The implementation date was set Tuesday for April 1, he said.

Because SOFA personnel are exempt from obtaining a Japanese driver's license, Japanese officials say they must figure out a way to implement the rule for them.

"We have yet to notify and discuss the matter with the U.S. Forces in Japan," said a foreign ministry's SOFA division official. U.S. Forces Japan officials declined to comment on the proposed change.

Riding double on motorcycles was banned in 1965 after a series of accidents by motorcyclists riding double on freeways.

The law was revised following motorcyclists' increased demand to use freeways and their complaints about the inconvenience of traveling long distances when not able to use freeways.

The revised law also raised fines for violators from 6,000 yen (about \$58) to 12,000 yen (about \$116). Those who don't pay, or who contest the ticket and are found guilty by a court, now face a fine of up to 100,000 yen (about \$972). The previous fine was up to 50,000 yen (about \$486), NPA officials said.

Some Okinawa Marines to stay longer in Iraq

By LISA BURGESS
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va.—The Pentagon is extending deployments of more than 10,300 soldiers and Marines in Iraq for two to four months and bringing in an additional 1,500 soldiers from the United States to assist with security in preparation for national elections, set for Jan. 30, defense officials said Wednesday.

U.S. troop levels in Iraq will rise from about 138,000 to more than 150,000 for the period covering the elections, according to Army Brig. Gen. David Rodriguez, deputy director for regional operations in the Joint Staff's Operations Directorate.

That is the highest number of U.S. troops in Iraq since initial combat operations ended in May 2003, Rodriguez told Pentagon reporters during a Wednesday news conference.

Two battalions of the 82nd Airborne Brigade (the Division Ready Brigade, or DRB), about 1,500 paratroopers, will be sent to Iraq from their base at Fort Bragg, N.C., "shortly" and will be in Iraq by mid-December, Rodriguez told Pentagon reporters.

The DRB, sometimes called the Army's "911 emergency forces" is designed so that one battalion is able to be deployed within

Extensions to include 2,300 from 31st MEU, aimed at bolstering security ahead of election

18 hours of notification, and the second, within 24 hours.

And in Iraq, the following troops have been extended:

■ About 2,300 Marines from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, which includes Marines from Okinawa, Hawaii and California. The Marines were due to return home in January and will now "come out March 15," Rodriguez said. Counting their time aboard ship to return to home base, the total deployment for the Marines will be 9½ months, rather than the normal seven months, Rodriguez said.

■ About 4,400 soldiers from the Army's 2nd Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division, based in Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

The brigade was supposed to return home in the beginning of January, but will now spend an additional 60 days in Iraq, Rodriguez said.

■ About 3,500 soldiers from the 2nd Brigade of the 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. The 2nd of the 1st Cavalry unit was supposed to return home in November, but was extended to Jan. 12 earlier this fall. Their new redeployment will be

"about 45 days past that," or the end of February, Rodriguez said.

■ About 160 soldiers of the 66th Transportation Company, based in Kaiserslautern, Germany, were due to depart Iraq in early January but instead will stay until early March — "about 60 days more," Rodriguez said.

However, extensions are not known for some Marines, Brig. Gen. Robert B. Neller, director of the Marine Corps Operations Division, said during the press conference. He noted that the 26th MEU was sent first to Iraq, then diverted on its way home for a mission in Liberia last year.

The additional deployment time for the 31st MEU "will have some potential impacts" on the Marine Corps' rotation schedule, "but we'll adjust," Neller said.

The additional troops were requested, Rodriguez said, by "commanders on the ground," including combat commander Army Gen. John Abizaid, head of the Florida-based U.S. Central Command, which has operational responsibility for Iraq.

Rodriguez warned that U.S. commanders in Iraq are continuing to assess the situ-

ation, and that conditions there "may result in additional adjustments" to troop levels.

Nevertheless, at this time, Rodriguez said, "there are no plans to accelerate the deployments" of any Iraq-bound units, including the 3rd Infantry Division, which analysts have suggested in recent weeks might contribute to higher force levels during the election.

Most of bringing in fresh troops, commanders decided they needed to keep the most experienced troops in Iraq longer, Rodriguez said.

The ground commanders believe the most experienced troops, the ones who have been there longest ... know the ground best," he said.

Some organizations representing Iraq's Sunni minority population have pledged to boycott the Jan. 30 elections, and even some members of Iraq's coalition government have suggested postponing the event until the security situation in the country is stabilized.

But the Bush administration is holding firm to the Jan. 30 event, which is mandated by an interim constitution signed by Iraq's provisional government in the spring.

And Rodriguez said that even if the elections are postponed, "the plan is that [the extended troops] will come home at the end of the extension."

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgess@stripes.osd.mil



Maj. Gen. Eric Olson speaks at the main U.S. base in Bagram, north of Kabul, Afghanistan, on Tuesday. Thousands of U.S. soldiers are poised to begin a fresh operation against Taliban insurgents to prevent an expected spring offensive from upsetting plans for fresh Afghan elections, Olson said Tuesday.

Bodies of crash victims on way to U.S.

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan—Search teams have recovered the bodies of six Americans who died when their plane crashed high in Afghanistan's snow-covered mountains, U.S. military officials said Wednesday.

The plane went down Saturday, but search efforts were complicated by bad weather and difficult terrain, said military spokesman Maj. Mark McCann.

"We regret to report that all six individuals on board the aircraft — the three U.S. civilian crew members and three U.S. soldiers — were killed in the crash," McCann said.

He said the victims' identities

would be released later by the Defense Department and Florida-based Presidential Airways, which had contracted the CASA 212 transport plane to the U.S. Air Force.

A plane carrying the bodies of the six victims back to the United States left Bagram on Tuesday evening, bound for Dover Air Force Base in Delaware, McCann said.

"An investigation will be conducted to determine the cause of the crash. However, at this time, we have no indication this crash was caused by hostile fire," McCann said.

"The indications we have is that it got into a valley and tried

to gain altitude quickly," Maj. Gen. Eric Olson said. "The pilot apparently recognized that we was not going to be able to gain altitude quickly enough and tried to make a very dramatic turn, didn't make it and crashed into a very narrow valley."

The bodies were found amid the debris of the plane in the Hindu Kush mountains, southeast of Bamiyan.

Accidents have accounted for most of the more than 100 deaths of U.S. servicemembers since Operation Enduring Freedom began in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States.

McCann said the bodies of the six Americans will be returned to their families "as soon as possible."

Bahraini princess and Marine file for divorce

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — The five-year marriage between a former Marine and a young Bahraini royal, whose story provided the basis for a made-for-television movie in the United States and uproar in her home country, is over.

"It was what she wanted," Jason Johnson told the Las Vegas Review-Journal of the divorce he and Meriam Al-Khalifa Johnson filed for Nov. 17, the day after their fifth wedding anniversary. It calls them "incompatible in marriage."

Johnson, who had sneaked his beloved into the United States and was court-martialed over the

relationship, cast the tale as a "Romeo and Juliet" love affair that disintegrated amid Las Vegas nightlife, opposition by his wife's family, and at least one deadly threat.

Al-Khalifa Johnson was not represented by a lawyer in the divorce filing. No one answered her apartment door Monday and it was unclear whether she planned to stay in the United States.

The story started in January 1999 when Johnson was stationed in Bahrain, an island kingdom off the coast of Saudi Arabia.

Al-Khalifa Johnson is one of five daughters of Sheikh Abdullah bin Ibrahim Al-Khalifa, a distant relative of Bahrain's king, Sheik Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa.

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Report: U.S. generals knew about prison abuse

BY JOSH WHITE

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A confidential report to Army generals in Iraq in December 2003 warned that members of an elite military and CIA task force were abusing detainees, a finding delivered more than a month before Army investigators received the photographs from Abu Ghraib prison that touched off investigations into prisoner mistreatment.

The report, which was not released publicly and was recently obtained by The Washington Post, concluded that some U.S. arrest and detention practices at the time could "technically" be illegal. It also said coalition fighters could be feeding the Iraqi insurgency by "making gratuitous enemies" as they conducted sweeps netting hundreds of detainees who probably did not belong in prison and holding them for months at a time.

The investigation, by retired Col. Stuart A. Herrington, also found that members of Task Force 121 — a joint Special Operations and CIA mission searching for weapons of mass destruction and high-value targets including Saddam Hussein — had been abusing detainees throughout Iraq and had been using a secret interrogation facility to hide their activities.

Herrington's findings are the latest in a series of confidential reports to come to light about detainee abuse in Iraq. Until now, U.S.

military officials have characterized the problem as one largely confined to the military prison at Abu Ghraib — a situation they first learned about in January 2004. But Herrington's report shows that U.S. military leaders in Iraq were told of such allegations even before then, and that problem were not restricted to Abu Ghraib. Herrington, a veteran of the U.S. counterinsurgency effort in Vietnam, warned that such harsh tactics could imperil U.S. efforts to quell the Iraqi insurgency — a prediction echoed months later by a military report and other reviews of the war effort.

U.S. treatment of detainees remains under challenge. Representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross recently told U.S. military officials that the treatment of inmates held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, was "outrageous, inhumane and degrading."

Herrington's report, which was commissioned by Maj. Gen. Barbara Fast, the top intelligence officer in Iraq, said some detainees dropped off at central U.S. detention facilities other than Abu Ghraib had clearly been beaten by their captors.

"Detainees captured by TF 121 have shown injuries that cause examining medical personnel to note that 'detainees show signs of having been beaten,'" according to the report, which later concluded: "It seems clear that TF 121 needs to be reined in with respect to its treatment of detainees."

A group of Navy SEALs who worked as part of the task force has been charged with abuse in connection with the deaths of two detainees arrested in the field. One died in a shower room at Abu Ghraib on Nov. 4, 2003, a month before Herrington arrived for his review.

A military source who participated in Task Force 20, the predecessor to TF 121, said the task force comprised several 12-man units that had targeted missions, such as searching for Saddam loyalists and terrorists. TF 20, which had about 1,000 soldiers, incorporated Army Rangers, members of Delta Force and Special Forces units working with CIA agents. They planned their missions nearly autonomously and answered either directly to the theater commander or to officials in Washington, the source said, speaking on the condition of anonymity because the missions were classified.

The report concluded that some U.S. arrest and detention practices at the time could "technically" be illegal.

Iraqi president backs election date

BY SAMEER N. YACUB

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's president, a Sunni Muslim, said Wednesday that elections should be held on time on Jan. 30, giving key support to the timetable dependence in large parts of the country and calls by some powerful Sunnis to postpone the vote.

U.S. soldiers traveling through Mosul on a mission to discuss the January election with Iraqis came under fire Wednesday when they stopped at a gasoline station, witnesses said. One U.S. soldier was wounded in the ensuing gunbattle.

Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, meanwhile, met Iraqi Sunni tribal leaders in neighboring Jor-

dan, trying to drum up support for the election, seen as vital for building a democratic government in Iraq.

Insurgents continued to launch attacks. On Baghdad's dangerous airport highway, a suicide bomber detonated an explosive-laden vehicle near two SUVs, wounding three civilians, according to police. One of the SUVs was lying overturned in the road after the blast, which hit the same spot on the highway where a suicide bomber rammed a U.S. military convoy a day earlier, wounding several soldiers.

The persistent violence has raised fears that voting will be impossible in some areas, and a major Sunni group has called for a boycott of the election to protest the U.S.-Iraq offensive on Fallujah last month.

But President Ghazi al-Yawer, who wields considerable influence among Sunni tribal figures, especially in the south of the country, told reporters in Baghdad that he opposed any delay.

"I personally think that there is a legal and a moral obligation to hold elections on the set date," he said. "Legally and morally, we have to abide by the date set for the elections in the country's administrative law" which mandates a ballot by the end of January.

Meanwhile, the U.S. military said it has arrested 210 suspected militants in a weeklong crackdown against insurgents in an area south of Baghdad known as the "triangle of death."



Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry return fire Wednesday during a gunbattle with insurgents in Mosul, Iraq. The soldiers came under fire when they stopped at a gasoline station. One U.S. soldier was injured.

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U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Tuesday, at least 1,253 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 961 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is one lower than the Defense Department's tally.

It's not unusual for the figures to differ slightly from day to day. The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,115 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 874 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ One U.S. soldier died Monday from wounds

sustained when his patrol was attacked with a bomb near Alazu, Iraq.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Adam R. Brooks, 20, Manchester, N.H.; killed Sunday in Iraq's Babil province; assigned to 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Charles A. Hanson Jr., 22, Panama, Fla.; killed Sunday in Iraq's Babil province; assigned to 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Army Pfc. Stephen C. Benish, 20, Clark, N.J.; died Sunday in Ramadi, Iraq, when he was attacked while on patrol; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Hawze, Kuwait.

■ Marine Cpl. Gentian Marku, 22, Warren, Mich.; killed Thursday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

IN THE WORLD

Protecting women focus of World AIDS Day

BY ALEXANDER G. HIGGINS
The Associated Press

GENEVA — From Armenia to Zambia, activists turned out by the thousands for World AIDS Day on Wednesday, singing in mighty cathedrals, lighting candles in city squares and playing sports.

The United Nations has dedicated this year's observance to improving protection for women and girls, many of the 39.4 million people infected with HIV worldwide are female.

"Prevention methods such as the ABC approach: Abstinence, Be faithful and use Condoms — are good, but not enough to protect women where gender inequality is pervasive," said Peter Piot, head of UNAIDS.

"We must be able to ensure that women can choose marriage, to decide when and with whom they have sex and to successfully negotiate condom use," Piot added.

As the day began in Asia, where the disease has claimed 540,000 lives this year, campaigners in Japan and South Korea handed out condoms. Thailand, Vietnam, and Bangladesh had marches.

In China, a rare visit by President Hu Jintao to AIDS patients in a hospital was televised.

In Pakistan, about 400 aid workers discussed how to empower women in a region where men usually have a dominant role in society.

At the forefront of the pandemic in southern Africa, red ribbons were tied to lamp posts and draped over buildings. Zambians gathered for a candlelight memorial service in the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in the capital, Lusaka.

Anglican Archbishop Ngonu Ngunu Nduangue of South Africa appealed for tolerance.

"HIV/AIDS is not God's punish-

ment of the wicked," Nduangue told a rally in Cape Town. "AIDS is a preventable, treatable and manageable disease — no more, no less."

Malawi's President Bingu wa Mutharika said he wants at least 1 million of his 11 million people to be tested for HIV by the end of next year so his government can determine how many need anti-retroviral treatment.

Eastern Europe, where AIDS figures have jumped since the collapse of the Soviet Union, joined in the observance. Events in Armenia included a concert with well-known local artists.

In the Croatian capital of Zagreb, activists handed out condoms and sold Christmas cards made by AIDS-infected children.

Portugal, which has one of the highest rates of new AIDS infections in western Europe, opened the new headquarters of an association to support AIDS patients.



Kenyan children hold flags to promote HIV/AIDS awareness at a public rally Wednesday in Nairobi, Kenya, for World AIDS Day. The National AIDS Council of Kenya warned that the AIDS situation is worsening in Kenya because of a lack of awareness about the dangers of unprotected sex.

Philippines death toll rises; storms not done

BY PAT ROQUE

The Associated Press

MARAGUION, Philippines — The death toll from a powerful rainstorm that triggered landslides and flash floods in the eastern Philippines rose to 412, with 17 people still missing, officials said Wednesday.

Meanwhile, winds and rain from another approaching typhoon hampered rescue efforts and prompted authorities to raise an alert over the country's already battered eastern provinces.

As rescue workers worked to reach survivors on rooftops and dry patches of land, the coast guard prevented ferries, small

boats and fishermen from leaving ports after authorities raised a typhoon alert over eastern provinces facing the Pacific Ocean.

Weather forecasters said Typhoon Nannadai was roaring toward the country with winds up to 150 mph. It was expected to make landfall Thursday or early Friday.

Low clouds and pounding rain turned back a helicopter carrying Vice President Noli de Castro and Social Welfare Secretary Corason Soliman on a visit to Quezon. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo also canceled a trip to the area. Arroyo ordered the military and police to crack down on illegal logging, blaming the high death toll on deforestation.

U.S. Army deserter to move to wife's hometown in Japan

The Associated Press

TOKYO — U.S. Army deserter Charles Jenkins will move to his wife's hometown in northern Japan this week, days after his release from U.S. military prison and almost four decades after he defected to North Korea, the government said Wednesday.

Jenkins, his Japanese wife, Hitomi Soga, and their two daughters will head Friday to the small island of Sado where the family is expected to resettle.

A U.S. military court sentenced Jenkins to 30 days in jail last month for abandoning his unit to cross into North Korea 39 years ago. He was released on Saturday after serving 25 days.

Jenkins, a native of Rich Square, N.C., told the

court that he fled his Army post in South Korea on Jan. 5, 1965, because he had heard rumors that he was to be reassigned to combat in Vietnam. He said he didn't intend to stay in the North — instead, he had planned to defect to the Soviet Embassy there and eventually make his way back to the United States.

The communist regime in North Korea, however, kept him for 39 years.

He was allowed to leave the North earlier this year to join his wife who was kidnapped from her Japanese hometown by North Korean agents in 1978. Soga was allowed to return to Japan only two years ago after North Korean leader Kim Jong Il admitted his country had kidnapped 13 Japanese citizens to obtain teachers of Japanese language and customs for its spies.

Yushchenko proposes second Ukraine vote

KIEV, Ukraine — Ukraine's opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko signed a compromise agreement Wednesday that obliged his supporters to lift their siege of government buildings, but he said they would stay in the streets until a deal is reached on a new vote.

After talks with the presidential runoff's officially declared winner, Viktor Yanukovich, outgoing President Leonid Kuchma and European envoys, Yushchenko proposed that a new vote be held Dec. 19 to resolve the crisis over the disputed balloting.

It was not immediately clear whether Yushchenko was calling for a re-vote of the Nov. 21 runoff that pitted him against Yanukovich or a new first round, with other candidates taking part.

Yasser Arafat's brother dead of cancer at 67

CAIRO, Egypt — Fathi Arafat, the brother of late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and founder of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, died Wednesday. He was 67.

Arafat died at the Palestine Hospital in suburban Cairo, where he had been receiving treatment for stomach cancer, said Mae Arif, spokeswoman for the Palestinian Red Crescent Society. Arafat, a physician, was the hospital's director.

"He was not only an uncle but he was a friend, a personal friend I think," said Nasser al-Kidwa, Arafat's nephew and Palestinian envoy to the United Nations.

Arafat had been suffering from cancer for about four years. Last month, a hospital official said cancer had spread throughout his body.

Arafat was a senior member of Fatah, the Palestine Liberation Organization's political movement once headed by his brother.

Arafat will be buried in Egypt, according to his relatives. His brother died Nov. 11 and was in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

From wire reports

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IN THE STATES

Bush thanks Canadians for help after Sept. 11

BY DEB RIECHMANN
The Associated Press

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia — President Bush declared Wednesday that both the United States and Canada have a vital interest in the success of democracy in Iraq and said “a new day of freedom, of hope and self-government is on the way.”

“Our enemies have declared their intentions and so have we,” Bush told an audience in Halifax, Nova Scotia. “Peaceful nations must keep the peace by going after the terrorists and disrupting their plans and cutting off their funding.”

“Two years ago, we disagreed about the best course in Iraq,” the president acknowledged. But he said that both Canada and the United States know what’s at stake.

Bush, continuing a hemispheric fence-mending trip north of the U.S. border in a country where opposition to the U.S.-led war to oust Iraq’s Saddam Hussein has been fierce, said that Washington and Ottawa now agree essentially about how to “go forward.”

“There’s only one way to deal with enemies who plot in secret,” he said. “We must take the fight to

them. We must be relentless and we must be steadfast in our duty to protect our people.”

Bush also said that it is “cultural condescension” to think that democracy cannot work in the broader Middle East.

He praised Prime Minister Paul Martin as a strong leader and said he looked forward to a “strong partnership” with Canada in his second term.

Noting that some 33,000 passengers on diverted U.S. commercial flights got stuck in Canada in the wake of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, he said, “Canadians came to the aid of men and women and children who were worried and confused with nowhere to eat and sleep.”

“How does a person say thank you to a nation?” he said.

“Well, that’s something a president can do. So let me say directly to the Canadian people ... Thank you for your kindness to America in an hour of need.”

Bush said he believes the people of the United States and Canada will remain close, as they have over time, “beyond the words of politicians and the natural disagreements that national leaders will have.”

New chief faces demanding post

BY TED BRIDIS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Tom Ridge’s successor as chief of the Homeland Security Department will have to unify a sprawling job bureaucracy, a deadly serious job where failure could put the United States at risk of another terror attack.

Ridge, who announced his resignation Tuesday, acknowledged the frustrations of working out the kinks in the broadest government reorganization in half a century, a job critics say remains largely incomplete.

Ridge said he will remain in the job until Feb. 1, unless the Senate confirms his successor earlier. Among those cited as potential candidates are Bernard Kerik, the former New York City police commissioner who helped rebuild Iraq’s police force; former Federal Emergency Management Agency Director Joe Albaugh; Environmental Protection Agency Administrator



Ridge

trator Mike Leavitt; and White House homeland security adviser Fran Townsend.

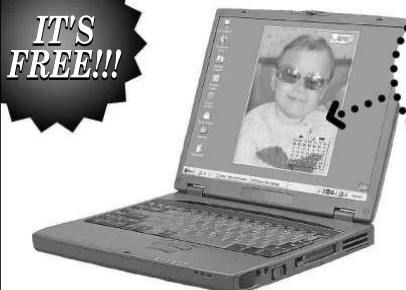
Others are also believed to be interested in the job, including Ash Hutchinson, undersecretary for border and transportation security in the Homeland Security Department.

Critics said Ridge’s legacy is mixed at Homeland Security, a collection of 22 disparate federal agencies with more than 180,000 employees. It includes Citizenship and Immigration Services, the Customs Service, the Coast Guard, the Secret Service and the Transportation Security Administration, with a combined budget of \$36 billion.

“He was dealt an impossible hand,” said Richard Clarke, the former top counterterrorism adviser to President Bush who resigned last year. “He was not allowed to make some of the key decisions about the beginning of the department. I think anyone would have failed under those circumstances.”

Although the Homeland Security Department originally was envisioned as a broker of intelligence after the 2001 terror attacks, the Bush administration opted to establish a new terrorist screening center and terrorist threat integration center, set up at the FBI and CIA respectively.

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Methodists to start trial based on gay clergy law

PUGHTOWN, Pa. — When the Rev. Irene Elizabeth Stroud told her congregation last year that she lives with a lesbian partner, she set the stage for the United Methodist Church’s third trial under a law forbidding clergy who are “self-avowed practicing homosexuals.”

Stroud could be defrocked if she loses the trial, expected to begin Wednesday.

Stroud said that if she is defrocked, the Germantown congregation has already promised that she can continue her work under lay status.

From The Associated Press

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Make a World of Difference

Peterson lawyer seeks sympathy for Scott

BY BRIAN SKOLOFF
The Associated Press

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. — Scott Peterson's life "is a life worth saving," an attorney told jurors Wednesday as the defense opened its case for sparing him from the death penalty for killing his pregnant wife, Laci.

Defense co-counsel Pat Harris said much of Peterson's life had been laid bare at trial. But as the second day of the penalty phase of Peterson's trial got under way, he told jurors that they

don't know the true Scott Peterson, 32. "What we're going to now show you is the 30 years that preceded this," Harris said. "And when we show you those 30 years, I believe that you will agree that this is a life worth saving."

On Tuesday, when prosecutors presented their case for the death penalty, jurors heard sometimes heart-rending testimony from Laci Peterson's family. Laci Peterson's mother, Sharon Rocha, wearing a gold heart-shaped pendant with her daughter's picture in it, rose out of the wit-

ness chair and screamed at her former son-in-law.

"She wanted to be a mother. That was taken away from her," Rocha said to Peterson.

"Divorce was always an option — not murder," Rocha said.

At one point, Peterson dabbed his eyes with a tissue.

"The first Mother's Day [after Laci's death] I laid on the floor and I cried most of the day because she should have been there," Rocha sobbed, her chest heaving.



Rocha

New IDs for gun buys

BOSTON — With a quick electronic scan of a fingerprint, gun shop owners in Massachusetts will know immediately if a customer is eligible to buy a weapon, using a system that officials say is the first of its kind in the nation.

The Massachusetts Instant Record Check System will be in place in all police departments and gun shops across the state this summer. It is currently operating in three shops and about 140 police departments. It allows police and shop owners to have instant access to updated arrest warrant and restraining order information.

No Election Day in Fla.?

ORLANDO, Fla. — Florida's election supervisors are proposing one way to make voting easier: Do away with Election Day.

Voters would cast ballots during a span of several days or weeks ending on the traditional voting day, under a plan endorsed Tuesday by supervisors at their meeting in Orlando. The group will now lobby lawmakers for changes during the spring legislative session.

The overwhelming response to this year's 15 days of early voting convinced most supervisors that voters are now demanding new freedom to show up at the time and place of their own choice.

Hurricane season ends

PENSACOLA, Fla. — One of the most traumatic hurricane seasons in Florida history officially ended Tuesday with Gov. Jeb Bush calling the occasion a time for "reflection and celebration."

Florida was hit by four hurricanes in a single season, a two-month barrage of storms that triggered the nation's biggest natural-disaster response.

The hurricanes killed 117 in Florida, destroyed more than 25,000 homes and heavily damaged 4,600 more. Damage was estimated at \$42 billion.

Bush said he would push during a special legislative session for passage of tax relief for people who lost their homes and the end of multiple deductibles on insurance policies for those who had damage from more than one hurricane.

Wash. recount likely

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Republican Dino Rossi was certified as governor-elect Tuesday, but the closest gubernatorial race in Washington's history is far from over. Secretary of State Sam Reed certified Rossi's 42-vote victory over Democrat Christine Gregoire.

"A recount is almost a certainty," Reed said after making the results official. "The candidates and political parties have until 5 p.m. Friday to request and pay for an additional recount."

Democrats are expected to request a hand recount of all or part of the 2.8 million ballots.

From wire reports



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FRIDAY EVENING / DECEMBER 3, 2004

	J	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30
6	AFN-P	•ESPNews	Pacific Report	King of the Hill Start Your B-Giant Soon! Grilling contest. (CC)	The '70s Show 'In Free! Kato contemplates fe- re-hood. (CC)	The Apprentice (CC)	Survivor: Vanuatu, Islands of Fire Who's in Charge Here? (N) (CC)	Pacific Report	The Tonight Show (CC)	Late Show (CC)			
7	AFN-AT	(5:46) Oprah Win- frey (CC)	(3:55) The View (CC)	(1:17) General Hos- pital (CC)	Headline News (CC)	Judge Judy (CC)	Today (CC)			Teacher's Pet (E) (CC)	What's New Scoo- by-Do? (CC)		
8	NEWS	Harbail with Chris Matthews	The O'Reilly Factor (CC)		Primetime Thursday (CC)		Good Morning America (CC)			Headline News	Channel One		
9	SPORTS	•\$5.00 Sports	•Sports	•SportsCenter	•SportsCenter	•SportsCenter	•SportsCenter	•SportsCenter	•Real Sports (CC)	•Sports	•Sports	•Sports	•Sports
10	SPECT	The Simpsons Raymond Frank or XIII (CC)	Everybody Loves Raymond Frank acts faithfully. (CC)	Charmed A darklighter accidentally sends Leo and Piper to another plane of existence. (CC)	Boston Public Controversy strikes Har- vard's classroom. Bonnie Davis is for an assignment. (CC)	Blue Planet	Blue Planet	Friends Road wants Emily to stay (CC)	Seinfeld Jerry's parents think he needs cash. (CC)	The Daily Show (CC)	Blind Date (CC)		
11	AFN-FM	SongsBob	Rugrats (CC)	Alli Grow Up	Dave-Barbrian	Jimmy Neutron	Drake & Josh	That's So Raven	Sabrina-Witch	Switched (CC)	Radio-Hocco	The Cosby Show	Home Improve.
12	AFN-WD	B. Bucksters	Ent. Tonight	•\$5 State and Mar- tini (2000) Comedy •\$5 Pumpkin (2002 Comedy Drama) Bethany A soccer girl plays for a mentally	Washington Week (CC)	Wall Street Week With Fortune (N) (CC)	Now With Bill Moyers (N) (CC)	•\$5 "Igy Goes Down" (2002) Kieran Culkin, Susan Sarandon, Jeff Goldblum. A wealthy young's upbringing leaves him scarred for the rest of his life. (CC)	•\$5 "China Moon" (1994) Ed Harris.	•\$5 "China Moon" (1994) Ed Harris.	•\$5 "China Moon" (1994) Ed Harris.	•\$5 "China Moon" (1994) Ed Harris.	•\$5 "China Moon" (1994) Ed Harris.
13	TMC	•\$5 "Muriel's Wedding" (1994 Comedy Drama) Rachel Griffiths. A new friend inspires a mad to make a fresh start. R (CC)	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N) (CC)	Washington Week (CC)	Wall Street Week With Fortune (N) (CC)	Now With Bill Moyers (N) (CC)	•\$5 "Muriel's Wedding" (1994 Comedy Drama) Rachel Griffiths. A new friend inspires a mad to make a fresh start. R (CC)	•\$5 "Muriel's Wedding" (1994 Comedy Drama) Rachel Griffiths. A new friend inspires a mad to make a fresh start. R (CC)	•\$5 "Muriel's Wedding" (1994 Comedy Drama) Rachel Griffiths. A new friend inspires a mad to make a fresh start. R (CC)	•\$5 "Muriel's Wedding" (1994 Comedy Drama) Rachel Griffiths. A new friend inspires a mad to make a fresh start. R (CC)	•\$5 "Muriel's Wedding" (1994 Comedy Drama) Rachel Griffiths. A new friend inspires a mad to make a fresh start. R (CC)	•\$5 "Muriel's Wedding" (1994 Comedy Drama) Rachel Griffiths. A new friend inspires a mad to make a fresh start. R (CC)	•\$5 "Muriel's Wedding" (1994 Comedy Drama) Rachel Griffiths. A new friend inspires a mad to make a fresh start. R (CC)
14	PBS	Dragon Tales Zoom Up Book (E) (CC) (DVS)	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N) (CC)	Washington Week (CC)	Wall Street Week With Fortune (N) (CC)	Now With Bill Moyers (N) (CC)	•\$5 "Muriel's Wedding" (1994 Comedy Drama) Rachel Griffiths. A new friend inspires a mad to make a fresh start. R (CC)	•\$5 "Muriel's Wedding" (1994 Comedy Drama) Rachel Griffiths. A new friend inspires a mad to make a fresh start. R (CC)	•\$5 "Muriel's Wedding" (1994 Comedy Drama) Rachel Griffiths. A new friend inspires a mad to make a fresh start. R (CC)	•\$5 "Muriel's Wedding" (1994 Comedy Drama) Rachel Griffiths. A new friend inspires a mad to make a fresh start. R (CC)	•\$5 "Muriel's Wedding" (1994 Comedy Drama) Rachel Griffiths. A new friend inspires a mad to make a fresh start. R (CC)	•\$5 "Muriel's Wedding" (1994 Comedy Drama) Rachel Griffiths. A new friend inspires a mad to make a fresh start. R (CC)	•\$5 "Muriel's Wedding" (1994 Comedy Drama) Rachel Griffiths. A new friend inspires a mad to make a fresh start. R (CC)
15	SHOW	•\$5 "World Traveler" (2001) Billy Cruikshank. A man leaves his family for a journey of self-discovery. R	•\$5 "Rocky IV" (1992) Drama Sylvester Stallone. Title Shave. Burt Young. The former champ agrees to train a young fighter. PG-13 (CC)	•\$5 "Rocky IV" (1992) Drama Sylvester Stallone. Title Shave. Burt Young. The former champ agrees to train a young fighter. PG-13 (CC)	•\$5 "Rocky IV" (1992) Drama Sylvester Stallone. Title Shave. Burt Young. The former champ agrees to train a young fighter. PG-13 (CC)	•\$5 "Rocky IV" (1992) Drama Sylvester Stallone. Title Shave. Burt Young. The former champ agrees to train a young fighter. PG-13 (CC)	•\$5 "Rocky IV" (1992) Drama Sylvester Stallone. Title Shave. Burt Young. The former champ agrees to train a young fighter. PG-13 (CC)	•\$5 "Rocky IV" (1992) Drama Sylvester Stallone. Title Shave. Burt Young. The former champ agrees to train a young fighter. PG-13 (CC)	•\$5 "Rocky IV" (1992) Drama Sylvester Stallone. Title Shave. Burt Young. The former champ agrees to train a young fighter. PG-13 (CC)	•\$5 "Rocky IV" (1992) Drama Sylvester Stallone. Title Shave. Burt Young. The former champ agrees to train a young fighter. PG-13 (CC)	•\$5 "Rocky IV" (1992) Drama Sylvester Stallone. Title Shave. Burt Young. The former champ agrees to train a young fighter. PG-13 (CC)	•\$5 "Rocky IV" (1992) Drama Sylvester Stallone. Title Shave. Burt Young. The former champ agrees to train a young fighter. PG-13 (CC)	•\$5 "Rocky IV" (1992) Drama Sylvester Stallone. Title Shave. Burt Young. The former champ agrees to train a young fighter. PG-13 (CC)
16	A&E	City Confidential Three thieves on a road trip. Signal Mountain are found murdered. (CC)	American Justice Free to Murder Appl. Death-row convict Kenneth Mc- Duff was set free. (CC)	American Justice Free to Murder Appl. Death-row convict Kenneth Mc- Duff was set free. (CC)	American Justice Free to Murder Appl. Death-row convict Kenneth Mc- Duff was set free. (CC)	American Justice Free to Murder Appl. Death-row convict Kenneth Mc- Duff was set free. (CC)	American Justice Free to Murder Appl. Death-row convict Kenneth Mc- Duff was set free. (CC)	American Justice Free to Murder Appl. Death-row convict Kenneth Mc- Duff was set free. (CC)	American Justice Free to Murder Appl. Death-row convict Kenneth Mc- Duff was set free. (CC)	American Justice Free to Murder Appl. Death-row convict Kenneth Mc- Duff was set free. (CC)	American Justice Free to Murder Appl. Death-row convict Kenneth Mc- Duff was set free. (CC)	American Justice Free to Murder Appl. Death-row convict Kenneth Mc- Duff was set free. (CC)	American Justice Free to Murder Appl. Death-row convict Kenneth Mc- Duff was set free. (CC)
17	DISC	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced
18	TFC	Wazz Up Wazz Up	Star Circle Circus	Bida Si Mister, Bida Si Miss	Bida Si Mister, Bida Si Miss	Bida Si Mister, Bida Si Miss	Bida Si Mister, Bida Si Miss	Bida Si Mister, Bida Si Miss	Bida Si Mister, Bida Si Miss	Bida Si Mister, Bida Si Miss	Bida Si Mister, Bida Si Miss	Bida Si Mister, Bida Si Miss	Bida Si Mister, Bida Si Miss
19	CNN+	Larry King Live (CC)	CNN World News	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport	World Sport
20	GOLF	•\$5 Golf World Match Play Championship - Final. From Surrey, England.	•\$5 Golf World Match Play Championship - Final. From Surrey, England.	•\$5 Golf World Match Play Championship - Final. From Surrey, England.	•\$5 Golf World Match Play Championship - Final. From Surrey, England.	•\$5 Golf World Match Play Championship - Final. From Surrey, England.	•\$5 Golf World Match Play Championship - Final. From Surrey, England.	•\$5 Golf World Match Play Championship - Final. From Surrey, England.	•\$5 Golf World Match Play Championship - Final. From Surrey, England.	•\$5 Golf World Match Play Championship - Final. From Surrey, England.	•\$5 Golf World Match Play Championship - Final. From Surrey, England.	•\$5 Golf World Match Play Championship - Final. From Surrey, England.	•\$5 Golf World Match Play Championship - Final. From Surrey, England.
21	TLC	Clean Sweep Used items make it difficult to navigate through a bedroom and home office.	Clean Sweep Used items make it difficult to navigate through a bedroom and home office.	Clean Sweep Used items make it difficult to navigate through a bedroom and home office.	Clean Sweep Used items make it difficult to navigate through a bedroom and home office.	Clean Sweep Used items make it difficult to navigate through a bedroom and home office.	Clean Sweep Used items make it difficult to navigate through a bedroom and home office.	Clean Sweep Used items make it difficult to navigate through a bedroom and home office.	Clean Sweep Used items make it difficult to navigate through a bedroom and home office.	Clean Sweep Used items make it difficult to navigate through a bedroom and home office.	Clean Sweep Used items make it difficult to navigate through a bedroom and home office.	Clean Sweep Used items make it difficult to navigate through a bedroom and home office.	Clean Sweep Used items make it difficult to navigate through a bedroom and home office.
22	TOON	Foster's Home for Imaginative Friends	Teen Titans	Powerpuff Girls	Cartoon Cartoon	Cartoon Cartoon	Cartoon Cartoon	Cartoon Cartoon	Cartoon Cartoon	Cartoon Cartoon	Cartoon Cartoon	Cartoon Cartoon	Cartoon Cartoon
23	ANPL	The Crocodile Hunter: Reptiles of the Deep: Turtles See Turtles (CC)	Most Extreme: Cheats Animals use de- ception to lure prey. (CC)	Most Extreme: Cheats Animals use de- ception to lure prey. (CC)	Most Extreme: Cheats Animals use de- ception to lure prey. (CC)	Most Extreme: Cheats Animals use de- ception to lure prey. (CC)	Most Extreme: Cheats Animals use de- ception to lure prey. (CC)	Most Extreme: Cheats Animals use de- ception to lure prey. (CC)	Most Extreme: Cheats Animals use de- ception to lure prey. (CC)	Most Extreme: Cheats Animals use de- ception to lure prey. (CC)	Most Extreme: Cheats Animals use de- ception to lure prey. (CC)	Most Extreme: Cheats Animals use de- ception to lure prey. (CC)	Most Extreme: Cheats Animals use de- ception to lure prey. (CC)
24	COM	Trigger Happy TV Zookeeper as- tutes (CC)	The Daily Show With Hostess (CC)	Mad TV Margaret Cho, Macy Gray (CC)	The World Stands Up Peter Berner (CC)	The World Stands Up Peter Berner (CC)	The World Stands Up Peter Berner (CC)	The World Stands Up Peter Berner (CC)	The World Stands Up Peter Berner (CC)	The World Stands Up Peter Berner (CC)	The World Stands Up Peter Berner (CC)	The World Stands Up Peter Berner (CC)	The World Stands Up Peter Berner (CC)
25	NGC-A	When Nature Strikes Back: Monsoons	Snake Wranglers Black tiger snake.	Crow Chronicles Capturing animals	Sheldahl Oil Disaster The environmental calamity of 1993.	Sheldahl Oil Disaster The environmental calamity of 1993.	Sheldahl Oil Disaster The environmental calamity of 1993.	Sheldahl Oil Disaster The environmental calamity of 1993.	Sheldahl Oil Disaster The environmental calamity of 1993.	Sheldahl Oil Disaster The environmental calamity of 1993.	Sheldahl Oil Disaster The environmental calamity of 1993.	Sheldahl Oil Disaster The environmental calamity of 1993.	Sheldahl Oil Disaster The environmental calamity of 1993.
26	SPKE	World's Wildest Police Videos (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "The Ship" St. Elsewhere (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "The Ship" St. Elsewhere (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "The Ship" St. Elsewhere (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "The Ship" St. Elsewhere (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "The Ship" St. Elsewhere (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "The Ship" St. Elsewhere (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "The Ship" St. Elsewhere (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "The Ship" St. Elsewhere (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "The Ship" St. Elsewhere (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "The Ship" St. Elsewhere (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "The Ship" St. Elsewhere (CC)
27	FOX	Remington Steele (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "The Ship" St. Elsewhere (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "The Ship" St. Elsewhere (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "The Ship" St. Elsewhere (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "The Ship" St. Elsewhere (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "The Ship" St. Elsewhere (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "The Ship" St. Elsewhere (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "The Ship" St. Elsewhere (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "The Ship" St. Elsewhere (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "The Ship" St. Elsewhere (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "The Ship" St. Elsewhere (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "The Ship" St. Elsewhere (CC)
28	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live Baby and Mannie Fresh	Jay-Z: Fade to Black (CC)	Jay-Z: Fade to Black (CC)	Jay-Z: Fade to Black (CC)	Jay-Z: Fade to Black (CC)	Jay-Z: Fade to Black (CC)	Jay-Z: Fade to Black (CC)	Jay-Z: Fade to Black (CC)	Jay-Z: Fade to Black (CC)	Jay-Z: Fade to Black (CC)	Jay-Z: Fade to Black (CC)	Jay-Z: Fade to Black (CC)
29	COURT	Hollywood Heat	Body of Evidence From the Case Files	Cops' Corner Cops' Corner Cops' Corner	Cops' Corner Cops' Corner Cops' Corner	Cops' Corner Cops' Corner Cops' Corner	Cops' Corner Cops' Corner Cops' Corner	Cops' Corner Cops' Corner Cops' Corner	Cops' Corner Cops' Corner Cops' Corner	Cops' Corner Cops' Corner Cops' Corner	Cops' Corner Cops' Corner Cops' Corner	Cops' Corner Cops' Corner Cops' Corner	Cops' Corner Cops' Corner Cops' Corner
30	STR-WD	The Simpsons (CC)	The Drew Carey Show (CC)	Star News Focus Show (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)
31	LIFE	The Golden Girls Mother's Day re- actions. (CC)	The Golden Girls Sophia's day- life is active. (CC)	•\$5 "The People Next Door" (1996, Suspense) Faye Dunaway, Nicolette Sheridan, Michael O'Keefe. A woman discovers her new neighbors hide a sinister	•\$5 "The People Next Door" (1996, Suspense) Faye Dunaway, Nicolette Sheridan, Michael O'Keefe. A woman discovers her new neighbors hide a sinister	•\$5 "The People Next Door" (1996, Suspense) Faye Dunaway, Nicolette Sheridan, Michael O'Keefe. A woman discovers her new neighbors hide a sinister	•\$5 "The People Next Door" (1996, Suspense) Faye Dunaway, Nicolette Sheridan, Michael O'Keefe. A woman discovers her new neighbors hide a sinister	•\$5 "The People Next Door" (1996, Suspense) Faye Dunaway, Nicolette Sheridan, Michael O'Keefe. A woman discovers her new neighbors hide a sinister	•\$5 "The People Next Door" (1996, Suspense) Faye Dunaway, Nicolette Sheridan, Michael O'Keefe. A woman discovers her new neighbors hide a sinister	•\$5 "The People Next Door" (1996, Suspense) Faye Dunaway, Nicolette Sheridan, Michael O'Keefe. A woman discovers her new neighbors hide a sinister	•\$5 "The People Next Door" (1996, Suspense) Faye Dunaway, Nicolette Sheridan, Michael O'Keefe. A woman discovers her new neighbors hide a sinister	•\$5 "The People Next Door" (1996, Suspense) Faye Dunaway, Nicolette Sheridan, Michael O'Keefe. A woman discovers her new neighbors hide a sinister	•\$5 "The People Next Door" (1996, Suspense) Faye Dunaway, Nicolette Sheridan, Michael O'Keefe. A woman discovers her new neighbors hide a sinister
32	ABC&F	7th Heaven Eve agrees to wait a while pic. Collier's father allows Simon to see her. (CC)	Smallville "Ruth" Pete and Chloe be- come friends. (CC)	•\$5 "The People Next Door" (1996, Suspense) Faye Dunaway, Nicolette Sheridan, Michael O'Keefe. A woman discovers her new neighbors hide a sinister	•\$5 "The People Next Door" (1996, Suspense) Faye Dunaway, Nicolette Sheridan, Michael O'Keefe. A woman discovers her new neighbors hide a sinister	•\$5 "The People Next Door" (1996, Suspense) Faye Dunaway, Nicolette Sheridan, Michael O'Keefe. A woman discovers her new neighbors hide a sinister	•\$5 "The People Next Door" (1996, Suspense) Faye Dunaway, Nicolette Sheridan, Michael O'Keefe. A woman discovers her new neighbors hide a sinister	•\$5 "The People Next Door" (1996, Suspense) Faye Dunaway, Nicolette Sheridan, Michael O'Keefe. A woman discovers her new neighbors hide a sinister	•\$5 "The People Next Door" (1996, Suspense) Faye Dunaway, Nicolette Sheridan, Michael O'Keefe. A woman discovers her new neighbors hide a sinister	•\$5 "The People Next Door" (1996, Suspense) Faye Dunaway, Nicolette Sheridan, Michael O'Keefe. A woman discovers her new neighbors hide a sinister	•\$5 "The People Next Door" (1996, Suspense) Faye Dunaway, Nicolette Sheridan, Michael O'Keefe. A woman discovers her new neighbors hide a sinister	•\$5 "The People Next Door" (1996, Suspense) Faye Dunaway, Nicolette Sheridan, Michael O'Keefe. A woman discovers her new neighbors hide a sinister	•\$5 "The People Next Door" (1996, Suspense) Faye Dunaway, Nicolette Sheridan, Michael O'Keefe. A woman discovers her new neighbors hide a sinister
33	HIST	Secret Passages "Sarapout" A com- edy lies next to the oldest pyramid in Egypt. (CC)	Marvel's "Sulist Train" Trains capable of speeds up to 190 mph. agenda. (CC)	Marvel's "Sulist Train" Trains capable of speeds up to 190 mph. agenda. (CC)	Marvel's "Sulist Train" Trains capable of speeds up to 190 mph. agenda. (CC)	Marvel's "Sulist Train" Trains capable of speeds up to 190 mph. agenda. (CC)	Marvel's "Sulist Train" Trains capable of speeds up to 190 mph. agenda. (CC)	Marvel's "Sulist Train" Trains capable of speeds up to 190 mph. agenda. (CC)	Marvel's "Sulist Train" Trains capable of speeds up to 190 mph. agenda. (CC)	Marvel's "Sulist Train" Trains capable of speeds up to 190 mph. agenda. (CC)	Marvel's "Sulist Train" Trains capable of speeds up to 190 mph. agenda. (CC)	Marvel's "Sulist Train" Trains capable of speeds up to 190 mph. agenda. (CC)	Marvel's "Sulist Train" Trains capable of speeds up to 190 mph. agenda. (CC)
34	STW-M	•\$5 "Going All the Way" (1997)	•\$5 "Going All the Way" (1997)	•\$5 "Going All the Way" (1997)	•\$5 "Going All the Way" (1997)	•\$5 "Going All the Way" (1997)	•\$5 "Going All the Way" (1997)	•\$5 "Going All the Way" (1997)	•\$5 "Going All the Way" (1997)	•\$5 "Going All the Way" (1997)	•\$5 "Going All the Way" (1997)	•\$5 "Going All the Way" (1997)	•\$5 "Going All the Way" (1997)
35	ADV 1	Into the Death Zone: Salvage Divers A grounded cargo ship causes an oil spill off the coast of Oregon.	Real World "Philadelphia" (CC)	Real World "Philadelphia" (CC)	Real World "Philadelphia" (CC)	Real World "Philadelphia" (CC)	Real World "Philadelphia" (CC)	Real World "Philadelphia" (CC)	Real World "Philadelphia" (CC)	Real World "Philadelphia" (CC)	Real World "Philadelphia" (CC)	Real World "Philadelphia" (CC)	Real World "Philadelphia" (CC)
36	MTV	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica "Cele- brity Justice" (CC)	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica "Cele- brity Justice" (CC)	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica "Cele- brity Justice" (CC)	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica "Cele- brity Justice" (CC)	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica "Cele- brity Justice" (CC)	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica "Cele- brity Justice" (CC)	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica "Cele- brity Justice" (CC)	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica "Cele- brity Justice" (CC)	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica "Cele- brity Justice" (CC)	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica "Cele- brity Justice" (CC)	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica "Cele- brity Justice" (CC)	Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica "Cele- brity Justice" (CC)
37	NICK	SongsBob	Rugrats Angela meets Santa girl. (E) (CC)	Scaredy Camp	Scaredy Camp	Scaredy Camp	Scaredy Camp	Scaredy Camp	Scaredy Camp	Scaredy Camp	Scaredy Camp	Scaredy Camp	Scaredy Camp

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Afternoon 5:30 News (6)	12:15 ABC News 12:35 PGA Tour Golf Lesson (3) 2:15 PBS Newshour 3:15 CNN News 4:15 World News Hour 5:15 World News Hour
Evening 7:30 News (12)	6:15 World News 7:15 World News 8:15 World News 9:15 World News 10:15 World News 11:15 World News
8:30 Planet Rugby (42)	12:15 ABC News 12:35 PGA Tour Golf Lesson (3) 2:15 PBS Newshour 3:15 CNN News 4:15 World News Hour 5:15 World News Hour
9:30 Planet Rugby (42)	12:15 ABC News 12:35 PGA Tour Golf Lesson (3) 2:15 PBS Newshour 3:15 CNN News 4:15 World News Hour 5:15 World News Hour
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OPINION

Russia exploits Ukraine's continental divide

Now more than ever, the bedrock idea on which U.S. foreign policy rests is that the nation's security is enhanced by the threat of democracy. Since 9/11 the idea has been that security depends on democratization in nations with slight, if any, traditions of popular sovereignty.

George Will

However, the policy of promoting democracy is a sharp scythe that can mow down more than the people wielding the tool might intend. In Ukraine's debased election, Russian President

Vladimir Putin twice campaigned for fraud, violence and other violations of civilized norms, incidents that seemed to bear Putin's signature. Commenting on Ukraine, Secretary of State Colin Powell said, "We cannot accept this result as legitimate because it does not meet international standards and because there has not been an investigation of the numerous and credible reports of fraud and abuse."

Which could have been said of President Putin's own re-election earlier this year. What President Bush said three years ago was that he had "a sense of" Putin's soul, informed by 15 years in the KGB — and liked what he sensed: "We share a lot of values." Events in Russia have not tempered the president's reiterated insistence that "freedom is on the march."

Putin stands athwart that march in Russia, where he has marginalized inconvenient parties, controlled the media and used the criminal justice system to eliminate potential rival sources of power and social authority. Now the Kremlin, which issued instructions to Ukrainian state-controlled media

during the presidential campaign, seems determined to export Putinism to contiguous countries.

Putin calls Viktor Yanukovich's 49.46 percent of the Ukrainian vote a "convincing" victory over Viktor Yushchenko. Yushchenko received 46.61 percent in his challenge to the authoritarian regime that backed Yanukovich, who favors closer relations with Russia, in the manner of some other "managed democracies" among former Soviet republics.

Yushchenko favors Ukrainian membership in the European Union and, perhaps, in NATO.

Criminality against Yushchenko's campaign went beyond multiple instances of violence, intimidation and vote fraud. The Financial Times reports that when Yushchenko appeared before a large crowd of supporters in Kiev, and his face filled a large video screen, a woman exclaimed, "Oh, how terrible. He was so handsome." His pockmarked and scarred features are the result of what seems to have been a poisoning that felled him hours after dining with the head of Ukraine's secret service.

Russia's attempt to control Ukraine's destiny is partly a reverberation from the dissolution of the Soviet empire. Russia's desire to envelop Ukraine within its sphere of influence is a centuries-old Russian tendency. The novel impulse at work here is the transformation of "Europe" from a geography into a political expression — and Putin's recoil against that.

In its admirably sharp criticism of Ukraine's election, the EU is postulating certain standards of civic hygiene integral to European identity. If the EU extends membership to Turkey, Europe's border will abut Iraq, Iran, Ukraine, China, Europe's border will be within 250 miles of Moscow.

The canon of European literature includes Pushkin, Chekhov, Dostoevsky and Tolstoy, but that does not settle the question of Russia's identity. Its relationship to Europe, Charles de Gaulle spoke of Europe extending from the Atlantic (in some of his



I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS — A VOTING BOOTH WITH AN IRON CURTAIN.

moods, from the English Channel) to the Ural Mountains. But there is a lot of Russia — eight time zones of it — east of there.

Ukraine has been independent for 13 years — the length of time between America's declaration of independence and the election of its first president, when the cohesion of the national entity was in doubt. Talk of secession is rife in Ukraine's eastern, Russian-oriented region.

The 19th century featured national consolidations — the United States, Germany, Italy, Belgium, etc. Recently, the disintegrative forces of religion, ethnicity and language have driven events in the former Yugoslavia, Iraq, the former Soviet Union and elsewhere.

Ukraine, where Catholicism and the Ukrainian language flourish in the west and

Orthodox Christianity and Russian in the east, could be the latest cauldron to boil over.

The United States, with its foreign policy hostage to January elections by the Palestinian Authority and those in Iraq, has a stake in Ukrainian events that is much larger than its leverage. As Lech Walesa, hero of Poland's liberation, told a mass meeting of Yushchenko's supporters, Poland supports you but you must do this yourself.

The problem, in Ukraine and others among Russia's anxiously watching neighbors, is Putin. Perhaps Secretary Powell intended the wide arc of his scythe to encompass Moscow when he said that corrupt elections could create legitimate governments. Washington Post is a member of George Will's Writers Group.

Desire to capture bin Laden stronger than tactics

The Baltimore Sun

The Pakistani army has pulled back from a tribal region where it was conducting a highly publicized and entirely fruitless hunt for Osama bin Laden. The operation in an area known as South Waziristan, was reportedly conducted with American intelligence help from across the nearby Afghan border; it succeeded primarily in turning the local tribesmen fiercely against the government forces. In October, the Pakistani military was reduced to waging a campaign of aerial bombardment against recalcitrant villages.

Now, according to an official announcement, a newfound spirit of cooperation among the Waziris will allow the army to abandon its checkpoints in the area. Some Pakistani officials say that no signs of the al-Qaida leader have been found, anyway, and that suggests to them that he's nowhere in the vicinity.

Others reserve judgment on that point but, in any case, using an army to chase after an individual is not only ineffective but often counterproductive — as Pakistan was discovering. The tribesmen are riled up, and from among them a new terrorist leader is emerging: Abdullah Mehsud, a one-legged 29-year-old whose two years at Guantanamo failed to curb his ardor or teach him respect for authority.

Released from Cuba in March, he organized the kidnapping of two Chinese engi-

neers this fall — one of whom was killed by government troops attempting a rescue — and then took credit for the bombing of a hotel in Islamabad last month. He has become a sensation in the Pakistani press, and has given President Pervez Musharraf considerably more to be concerned about than has the titular head of al-Qaida. He's also a good example of the way in which the United States succeeds in making enemies for itself.

Pakistan seems — perpetually — to be at one tipping point or another. Right now the government is gingerly exploring

some sort of deal with India over Kashmir, in the northeast, and the last thing it needs is a fundamentalist uprising in the northwest. Defanging the Islamists is Musharraf's most crucial task, from his own point of view — but it coincides with American interests as well. It might, in the long run, also be the best way to catch bin Laden — if, in fact, he's still in the Pakistani mountains. Winning over the tribes rather than trying to pound them into submission could leave him with nowhere to run.

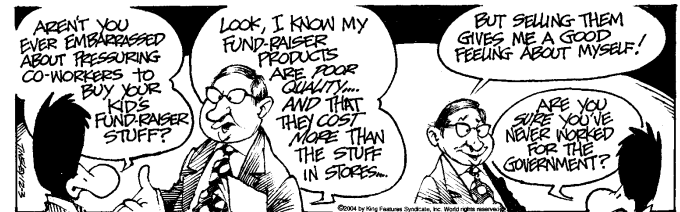
In that sense, then, the current pull-

back may be a good sign. But it's worth noting that no government — not the Pakistani government, nor the British colonial government before it — has ever succeeded in extending its writ over the tribal areas. If Musharraf is to succeed, even in part, it may mean dropping the pursuit of the al-Qaida leadership for now.

The Bush administration should be patient on that score; though justice will be served by the eventual capture of bin Laden, it is more likely to be accomplished through stealth and ingenuity than by a clumsy and sometimes less-than-genuine frontal assault.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Inheritance claim

CA LOS ANGELES — The illegitimate son of a wealthy South Korean industrialist has filed a federal lawsuit claiming he was denied an inheritance after being given up for adoption in California 18 years ago.

Peter Roach, 26, sued his father's company, five half-siblings and others alleging fraud, negligence and emotional distress. He is seeking \$5 million, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Roach is the son of now-deceased industrialist Won Man Lee, founder of Kolon Industries Inc., and club hostess Alee Yoon Lee, whom he met in 1977 and took as a mistress for several years, the newspaper reported.

Kolon, a synthetic fibers and engineering plastics manufacturer, has annual sales of more than \$1 billion.

Loggers protest law

ME MADISON — Loggers throughout Maine say they're worried that a law meant to curtail liquidation harvesting in the state's forests will make it difficult for smaller operations to find wood next year when it takes effect. The law, supported by the Department of Conservation, bans the purchase of land for the purchasing of wholesale harvesting of trees without regard to long-term forest-management principals.

Horse upsets teach-in

FL LUTZ — Waiting for surgery, his arm broken, 5-year-old Michael Ruiz couldn't get angry at the 1,000-pound gelding that fell on him.

Michael was among about 125 Schwarzkopf Elementary School kindergartners for whom the usually serene Great American Teach-In got scary.

They were sitting around Attache, a 20-year-old American Saddlebred, when he got spooked, lurched forward, lost his footing and fell on his side.

As the horse scrambled to get up, the trainer tried to get it under control and teachers quickly tended to the students. Afterward, about a dozen students complained of bumps, bruises or other injuries.

Robbery in vain

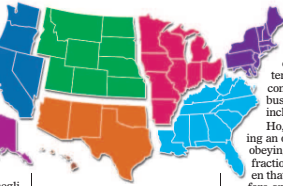
NC RALEIGH — A robber's crime was foiled when he couldn't find anything to steal.

Just after closing, an intruder shot the lock off the door of a Smithfield's Chicken 'N Bar-B-Q restaurant. The man climbed through the broken glass door and combed the fast-food restaurant for items to take, said police Lt. T.L. Earnhardt, but could not break into the cash register.

Employees who were still in the restaurant escaped out the back door. The man fled before police arrived.

Grandma faces drug trial

ME BANGOR — The grandmother of a Corinna man sentenced to 13 years in prison for burying 8 pounds of cocaine on her property has pleaded not guilty to



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

drug trafficking.

Jeanne E. Rogers, 64, entered her plea in Penobscot County Superior Court. Rogers was arrested in connection with the drug trafficking operation her grandson, 25-year-old Jason Belmer, ran.

When police seized cocaine that was buried in Rogers' pool shed in September, Belmer fled and was the subject of a nationwide search for six weeks. He eluded police in Maine, Colorado and Kansas.

A trial date has not been set for Rogers, and details of her alleged involvement in her grandson's drug operation were not available.

Bus just too tall

NY NEW YORK — A tour bus that was four feet too tall to clear a highway overpass in New York City slammed into it, injuring some of the 49 passengers, authorities said.

Most injuries were minor, though two passengers were hospitalized — a boy with a crushed windpipe and a woman who suffered chest pains, the Fire Department said.

The accident happened as the bus from Canada was traveling southbound on the Franklin D. Roosevelt Drive in Manhattan.

Police said the driver, Yu Yuk



Ready for riding

Red Mountain Fox Hounds junior member Dana McWilliams, 12, tries to fix a stirrup as her mount muncies on some fresh grass near Roughton, N.C. She was one of about 30 riders who took part in the Red Mountain Fox Hounds hunt.

Ho, ignored signs warning that vehicles higher than 9 feet 6 inches would not clear the overpass, a temporary structure for a construction project. The bus measured 13 feet 6 inches.

Ho, 56, was cited for driving an overweight vehicle, disobeying a sign and other infractions. Ho said he had driven that stretch of the FDR before and did not expect to encounter the overpass.

Blessed nuptials

WA TACOMA — There may not have been room at the inn, but they'd better make room at the altar.

Shortly after a performance of the Nativity at the Metropolitan Ballet of Tacoma, Dan Larson, portraying Joseph, got down on one knee and asked Amanda Thaut, "Will you marry me?"

Thaut, who played Mary, quietly gasped, "Yes."

The audience at the Pantages Theater was stunned. One of the wise men pumped his fist in the air and the shepherds and angels could barely contain their enthusiasm.

"I started planning it more than a year ago," Larson, 25, said later. "I wanted to make it something very special. Every part of my life is better because of her."

Leadfoot trucks

KY PIKEVILLE — A state crackdown on overweight coal trucks is having a side effect — more trucks exceeding the speed limit.

Kentucky Vehicle Enforcement commissioner Greg Howard said trucks can go faster when they're not bogged down with overweight loads, and some truckers may be taking advantage of that to speed up to haul more loads each day.

"We are beginning to get some complaints on speed, and we're addressing those," Howard said. "Of course, speed is easier to enforce than weight limits."

Howard said the number of overweight trucks has been drastically reduced in eastern Kentucky since the crackdown began, based on the number of violations officers are seeing.

Suspected rock-thrower

ME WESTBROOK — A 16-year-old juvenile from Portland is believed to be the person who threw a rock from a Maine Turnpike overpass that cracked the windshield of a Maine State Police cruiser, injuring the trooper at the wheel, authorities said.

Trooper Duane Doughty was driving north at about 10 p.m. when the rock came crashing down from the Brighton Avenue overpass, said Stephen McCausland, spokesman for the state Department of Public Safety.

Although the windshield did not shatter, Doughty was showered with glass fragments that struck his face and an eye. He was treated at Maine Medical Center for facial abrasions and was scheduled to see an eye specialist to determine the extent of any eye injuries, McCausland said.



Clowning around

A child dressed as a clown makes a face at parade watchers during the 32nd annual Children's Parade in downtown Dayton, Ohio.



Taking it all in

Jade Eitner watches members of the USA Ballet company run through a practice of their upcoming performance of " 'Twas the Night Before Christmas" at the Academy of Ballet in Alamogordo, N.M.



A canine Christmas

Santa's lap at PetCo in Great Falls, Mont.

Baylee, a 3-year-old Pekinese-Pomeranian mix, sits for a portrait on



Preparing to leap
Festival in Flint.

Ralph Arellano of Flint, Mich., waits to catch his granddaughter, Riley Arellano, 3, from the "Friendly Frog," during the Applewood Fall Festival in Flint.



Dinner invitation

Kasprzycki of Alma, Ark., asks a white-fronted goose, "Do you want some bread?" Kasprzycki and his wife, Kristi, were feeding the waterfowl at City Park in Van Buren, Ark.



Chilly afternoon

Nayeli Holguin, right, pulls the hood of her coat over her face to use as a shield against the cold winds in El Paso, Texas. Nayeli and her mother, Tomsa, were waiting to board a bus.



Bringing holiday home

Six-year-old Nathaniel Syverson and his father, Kent, use a wagon to haul home their family's Christmas tree from a neighborhood tree lot in Eau Claire, Wis. Kent Syverson said the wagon tree transport has become a family tradition.

Lava lamp blast kills 1

WA KENT — A man who placed a lava lamp on a hot stove top was killed when it exploded and sent a shard of glass into his heart, police said.

Philip Quinn, 24, was found dead in his trailer home by his parents. "Why on earth he was heating a lava lamp on the stove, we don't know," Kent Police spokesman Paul Petersen said.

After the lamp exploded, Quinn apparently stumbled into his bedroom, where he died, authorities said.

Police found no evidence of drug or alcohol use.

Drag racing death

VT WESTMINSTER — A Putney man whom police said was drag racing lost control of his car and was killed along with two others in a head-on collision.

Tyler Gilbert, 23, was chasing another car when he crossed the center line and struck a car driven by Laura Sears Davis, 35, of Dummerston, according to police.

Davis and a passenger, Brian Davis, were killed in a race, police said. A 3-year-old girl and 5-year-old girl, whom police described as the Davises' nieces, were also in the car.

Vermont State Police said they suspect alcohol contributed to the crash. Senior Trooper Jonathan Graham is continuing the investigation and awaiting autopsy results.

Studying freshman life

MD ANNAPOLIS — In his first weeks as a freshman at St. John's College, Roger "Rusty" Martin missed two days of crew practice. He feared the coach might cut him from the team, but he had legitimate reasons: CT scans and a checkup with his oncologist.

The 61-year-old was four years removed from a battle with melanoma that nearly killed him. Martin, the president of Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Va., is the oldest freshman at St. John's — by four decades.

Martin went back to school this year because he wanted to study the freshman experience in a way that would be impossible from the president's office. So he took a semester-long sabbatical from top of the academic food chain to dwell at the bottom.

Reasons for foster care

VA RICHMOND — A study shows that thousands of parents have placed their children in Virginia foster care because they want their kids to get mental-health services that would be otherwise unaffordable.

The report commissioned by the General Assembly shows that 2,008 of the 8,702 children in foster care — or nearly one-quarter — appeared "to be in custody to obtain treatment." The study, which used data from the Department of Social Services, is based on children in foster care as of June 1.

The report's recommendations to the General Assembly include increasing funding for the Comprehensive Services Act, which is designed to provide money for mental health services for children, and helping families access private insurance for mental health services.

Five killed in collision

IL MARION — Five people were killed in an accident on Interstate 57 near Marion, state police said. A northbound van from Chicago carrying a family of four crossed the median and struck a vehicle head-on, killing everyone in the van and the driver of the vehicle. The accident closed the interstate for about five hours. A third vehicle that was behind the second one also was hit. The six people in that car were treated for minor injuries at the scene, Minor said.

College alcohol ban

WA SEATTLE — Students at Seattle Pacific University voted overwhelmingly last spring to ease the 113-year-old Christian school's alcohol ban, but administrators still don't plan to do so.

The school bans any consumption by students or faculty, even off campus. Officials say the ban promotes a healthy lifestyle. Many students say the Bible does not prohibit moderate drinking.

Health insurance guide

NY ALBANY — A guide for consumers and physicians to maximize health insurance coverage for the growing problem of obesity is scheduled for release.

"Focus On: Overcoming Obesity" will be available online through the state Attorney General's Office and was based on complaints and concerns from consumers to the office. Many consumers simply give up trying to navigate the forms and restrictions even if their health plan covers obesity treatment from counseling and referrals to gastric bypass surgery, said Attorney General Eliot Spitzer.

The report relates complaints to the Attorney General's Office, without naming the patients. The stories include a woman who faced denial because the health plan changed its lengthy preconditions while she sought care, and another who appealed initial denials that the treatment wasn't medically necessary.

Elephant retirement

CA SAN FRANCISCO — The lone Asian elephant at the San Francisco Zoo was moved to a sanctuary for elephants to be euthanized after years of abuse, according to the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

But the American Zoo and Aquarium Association says it hasn't accredited the refuge for 38-year-old Timberbelle, and may refuse to renew the zoo's accreditation.

Victims reimbursed

MA BOSTON — The Clients' Security Board, a little-known arm of the state Supreme Judicial Court, returned more than \$2.4 million to 99 Massachusetts residents who were victimized by bad lawyers, the CSB reported.

The \$2.4 million awarded this year resulted from 26 lawyers who defrauded clients.

Formed 30 years ago, the seven attorneys on the CSB volunteer their time to reimburse eligible clients who have been defrauded. The 47,500 lawyers practicing in the Bay State contribute \$40 of their yearly \$220 registration fee to fund the CSB.

Stories and photos from wire services

Horoscope

The moon void of course this morning contributes to the general mood of restlessness and anticipation of... what? That sense of not knowing is both maddening and delicious. As long as we stay in the dark, whatever it is behind the proverbial door No. 3 becomes the projection of all our hopes — your interests are changing, and your relationships bloom with the shift. Get out of town, and take a well-deserved break next month. Luck comes from the people you meet on your journeys, especially water signs (Pisces, Scorpio and Cancer).

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (December 3). Life is as fancy free as you allow it to be. Loved ones influence you in new ways — your interests are changing, and your relationships bloom with the shift. Get out of town, and take a well-deserved break next month. Luck comes from the people you meet on your journeys, especially water signs (Pisces, Scorpio and Cancer).

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Just when a situation starts to feel like it's taking over your life, a friend offers a chance for adventure. You remember adventure, right? Consider how many of the seven wonders of the world you've seen. Explore.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You usually can be counted on as the emotional rock, the stabilizing force, the one who soldiers on no matter what. So the effusively sentimental mood you're in today is seen as an anomaly and may amuse loved ones.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your role as "whistle-blower" is tough for you, as you are used to being liked by all sides. You'll be the one to spot the element of the plan (or the character involved) that is on the shifty side (if not downright indecent or dangerous).

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Bring plenty of initiative to the table. When you dare to want more, you're more likely to find a way to get more. Someone who knows the secret shortcuts is nearby. Turn up your instinct, and locate this person.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The super volcano that is now Yellowstone devastated the Western Hemisphere.

Holiday Mathis



spore some 640,000 years ago. Now, it's the first and most fantastic national park. There's hope for that area of your life you currently think is a catastrophe.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

You can't believe what you're doing. Someone close may be trying to smirch a perceived rival by spreading false rumors. Sticking up for the underdog is just one of the ways you make a difference in this crazy world.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

Life is a game, and you are, in the hippest sense of the word, a player. A clever maneuver you make in the early part of a project gives you the edge that will keep you in the lead.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

Sometimes in life, as in chess, a pawn must be sacrificed in order to gain an attacking position. Be smart. Make sure you completely understand your role in a situation. See that the pawn isn't you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

You relate your story well. In fact, you're such a witty teller of anecdotes that you'll be invited to see new places and get to know new people. It's fun to care for the non-verbal ways you communicate to the world, too.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

You'll find yourself being reviewed in some way. Others shiver and shake under such circumstances, but you're as ready and cool as a Swiss Alps ski vacation. You coast your way into a beautiful offering.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

You have no time to waste. Then again, you have never considered taking a different route home or venturing into the unknown to be a waste of time! A field trip is featured, especially one that is short, direct and memorable.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

You're not alone in what you believe, but your communication style is pretty unique. Finding people who relate to is the uncommon quest of the day. A witty gambit opens a fascinating conversation.

Creators Syndicate

Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



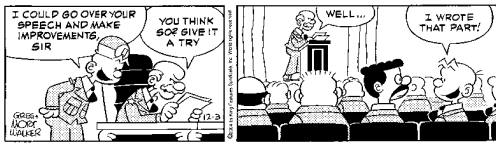
Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



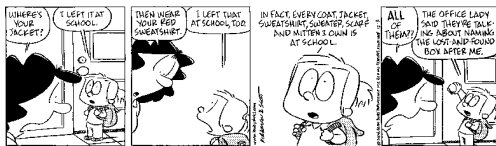
Foxtrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider-Man



Blondie



Dilbert



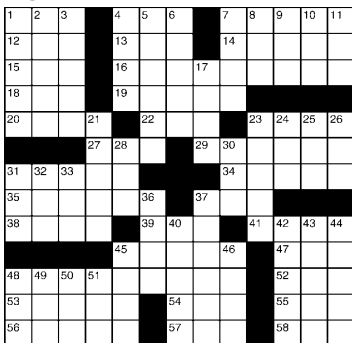
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Fool
- 4 Likely
- 7 Basketball play
- 12 "The — Daba
Honeymoon"
- 13 Magnon predecessor
- 14 Old-time
marketplace
- 15 Verb in a
limerick's first line
- 16 Attendance
check
- 18 NYC hrs.
- 19 Borden mascot
- 20 Unwilling to listen
- 22 "Monty Python"
opener
- 23 Section
- 27 Resistance unit
- 29 Warning signal

940s headline

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| word | 26 Stick with a kick |
| 58 Sandra or Ruby | 28 Whammy |
| Down | 30 Calf-feed-terea |
| 1 Cut lumber | 31 Big bother |
| 2 Humiliate | 32 Basilica bench |
| 3 Trattoria selection | 33 The whole enchilada |
| 4 Dental distress | 36 Longest wholly |
| 5 Bout before the main event | Spanish river |
| 6 Raise a glass to | 37 Woman, to an Aussie |
| 7 Charitably, for one | 40 Vesp who resigned |
| 8 Past | 42 Made public |
| 9 Unfathomable — | 43 Empiricist — |
| 10 Coffee vessel | 44 "Cotton —" |
| 11 Mr. Sajak | 45 Salt Lake squad |
| 12 Invertebral structure | 46 Use a teaspoon |
| 21 Concentrate | 48 Upper limit |
| 23 Shriivel with heat | 49 — shoestring |
| 24 Pink slio | 50 One (Pref.) |
| | 51 Love, in a sense |

Answer to Previous Puzzle



12-3

CRYPTOQUIP

C ZRUWYI CM XCKKRJR
SIY XJSQYW W LICUB
PLIICKSUYV. SMHYI SJJ.

HPYQ'IY PCBP ZCUWV.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A BUILDING WERE
 PRETTY, WITH IVY COVERING MUCH OF IT, IT
 WOULD BE SIMPLY DE-VINE!

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equal L

The needle and the damage done

Dear Abby: A person very dear to my heart, "Ruth," has always donated to her community blood drives. It's a form of philanthropy she enjoys. Ruth remarried a few months ago and asked her new husband, "Tony," to attend the blood drive with her. His reply left her stunned and changed her life forever. Tony confided that in his youth, he had been a needle-type drug user and now he can't give blood.

Mind you, Tony is a good, hardworking straight-arrow man now, but he was foolish in his youth. When Ruth went to the blood drive, she was asked: "In the past 12 months have you slept with another woman who has ever used a needle?" She explained that yes, as a teenager, her husband had done drugs. She was told that as long as she is with Tony, she can't give

blood anymore. Ruth is hurt and angry at her husband for what he took from her. I feel lost as a friend about what to say to help her.

Abby, Tony's drug use was more than 27 years ago. Is Ruth right that this will follow them forever and she can never give blood again?

— Gift of Life Gone in Maryland

Dear Gift: Your letter is a pertinent reminder that youthful experimentation can have lifelong consequences.

Those rules were established for a good reason — to protect our blood supply.

It might lift your friend's spirits if you remind her that there are other things she can do to contribute to her community. She could volunteer to work at the blood drive in some capacity other than a donor. She could also hold a bake sale to raise funds for

Dear Abby



Brother teaching niece intolerance

Dear Annie: My cousin, "Steve," is a homosexual. He is very nice and compassionate, but lives far away, and we see him only once or twice a year.

My brother never had a good relationship with Steve, and the old conflicts have now started to reappear. At a recent family gathering, my niece told my daughter that Steve was a "bad man" because he's gay and not to be nice to him or "you could catch the disease."

I was shocked to hear these cruel statements coming from such an innocent child's mouth, until I learned that my brother had been teaching her these things. I'm horrified that this has been going on, but reluctant to start yet another conflict. What should I do?

— Tolerant Cousin

Dear Cousin: Show on your brother for deliberately reinforcing ignorance in his own child and teaching her to be intolerant.

Annie's Mailbox



Make sure your own children are better informed, and if your niece should say any of these things in your presence, feel free to correct her misperceptions. Unfortunately, unless you are willing to get into a fight with your brother, you cannot otherwise tell him how to raise his child.

Dear Annie: I have been happily married for over 20 years to a wonderful man who is 10 years younger. The age difference has never been an issue until recently, when my husband decided to wash the years out of his hair. The distinguished and very attractive gray is completely gone. He looks quite youthful, and now our age difference is very noticeable.

All these years I have tried to look my best in a wholesome way — healthy lifestyle, practical makeup and a positive attitude. This latest development makes me feel old. My husband refuses to take my concerns seriously. He

"the cause." Rather than blaming her husband at this late date, she should respect the rules and explore her other options.

Dear Abby: My nephew, who is also my godson, has decided to marry my youngest stepdaughter. Which side of the church should I sit on — the bride's or the groom's side? My husband and children think I should sit on the groom's side. I am afraid someone will feel hurt no matter what I do.

— Betwixt and Between in Florida

Dear Betwixt: Ask your nephew and stepdaughter where they would like you to sit and abide by their decision. The alternative would be to bring a folding chair and sit in the middle.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.ueppress.com/dearabby> Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

REFIA

GRABE

LARIAC

FELBAF

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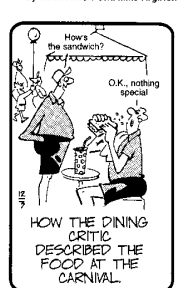
www.jumble.com

A: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: STOOB APRON MEDLEY UNHOOK

Answer: What her college-bound son did when Mom taught him to do laundry — "SOAKED" IT UP

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

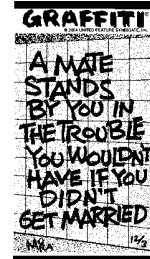
(Answers tomorrow)

Family Circus



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"No! How 'bout a MICKEYvan?"

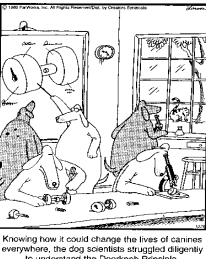


Dennis the Menace



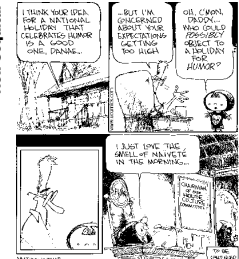
© Gary Larson

The Far Side

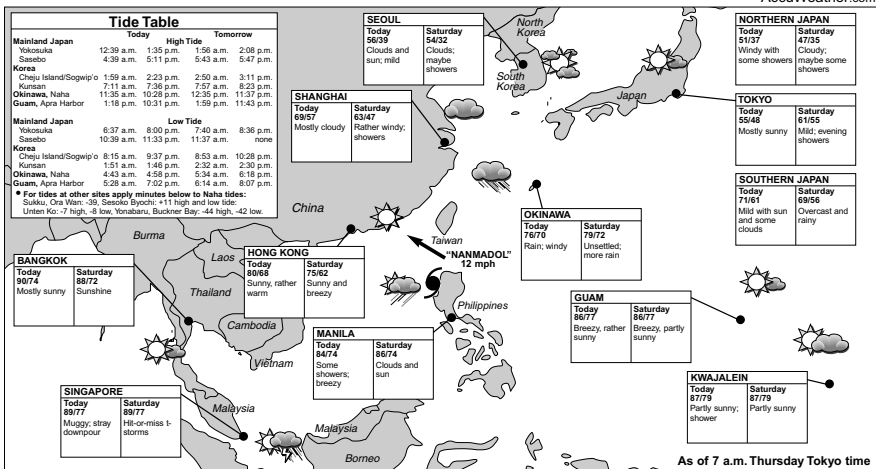


Knowing how it could change the lives of canines everywhere, the dog scientist struggled diligently to understand the Doorknob Principle.

Non Sequitur



The Pacific Forecast

All forecasts and maps provided by AccuWeather, Inc. © 2004
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Extended Forecasts

TOKYO

Sunday: Morning rain, high 70, low 49.
Monday: Mostly sunny, high 50, low 42.

KADENA

Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 79, low 65.
Monday: Partly sunny, high 72, low 61.

Wednesday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	43/20	Los Angeles	66/43
Amarillo	55/21	Little Rock	54/32
Anchorage	43/26	Louisville	49/31
Ashville	53/26	Miami	81/68
Baltimore	58/34	Milwaukee	41/25
Birmingham	52/33	Nashville	50/26
Bismarck	35/21	New York	58/40
Boston	36/22	Omaha	41/22
Brownsville	56/36	Orlando	81/58
Buffalo	68/54	Philadelphia	60/36
Burlington	49/32	Phoenix	64/38
Charleston, SC	42/29	Pittsburgh	47/30
Charlotte	69/41	Portland, OR	47/34
Chicago	63/35	Portland, ME	50/30
Cleveland	45/30	Salt Lake City	29/16
Columbus, OH	44/29	St. Louis	48/31
Duluth	28/12	San Antonio	62/39
El Paso	56/28	San Diego	63/44
Hartford	55/35	San Juan	84/72
Helena	38/18	Tampa	79/58
Indianapolis	43/28	Tulsa	55/33
Jacksonville	73/44	Washington	61/38
Kansas City	45/27	Wichita	48/28

Friday, December 03



U.S. Extended Forecast

Friday, a fast-moving area of low pressure will bring snow and flurries to the Upper Midwest and parts of the Great Lakes. Meanwhile, a few flurries will fly in New England. Showers will affect southern Texas on occasion. High pressure over the Rockies will keep the region dry and chilly. The Plains and Southeast will be tranquil as well. Although plenty of clouds will form over the Northwest, rain will hold off until the weekend. This rain will wet Washington, Oregon and northern California Saturday. Showers will continue to affect southern Texas. The weekend will be chilly across the Northeast with scattered flurries and snow showers.

Friday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	90/74	Iwakuni	64/54
Beijing	53/37	Kadena AB	76/70
Camp Casey	57/38	Kunsan AB	61/47
Christchurch	61/41	Kwajalein	87/79
Diego Garcia	86/77	Manila	84/74
Hagatna	80/67	Misawa AB	55/39
Hanoi	86/65	Osan	58/40
Hong Kong	86/78	Perth	76/57
Honolulu	85/72	Pusan	65/51

Friday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	91/74	Budapest	50/40	Kabul	38/13
Athens	65/51	Buenos Aires	82/63	Kiev	42/29
Auckland	64/47	Cairo	75/54	London	68/44
Baghdad	64/42	Cancun	82/69	Oslo	32/29
Barbados	84/70	Cape Town	88/68	Paris	44/38
Barcelona	53/41	Geneva	43/38	Rio de Janeiro	72/63
Berlin	39/31	Istanbul	62/52	Rome	64/50
Bermuda	72/63	Johannesburg	85/58	Stockholm	33/28
Brussels	41/32	Moscow	27/19	Warsaw	36/28



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Ole Miss fires Cutcliffe

The Associated Press

OXFORD, Miss. — Mississippi coach David Cutcliffe was fired Wednesday after his first losing season in six years with the Rebels.

Ole Miss officials informed Cutcliffe of the decision early Wednesday and Cutcliffe met with the team before an afternoon news conference.

"This has been a tough day, but tough times don't last... tough people do," Cutcliffe said. "Cutcliffe declined to discuss specifics of his dismissal."

"We just couldn't come to an agreement," he said. "We couldn't get everything on the same page."

Athletic director Pete Boone was also scheduled to talk with reporters.

Cutcliffe was 44-29 in six seasons at Ole Miss, 25-23 in the Southeastern Conference, and just a season removed from going 10-3 and finishing tied for first in the SEC West with Eli Manning at quarterback.

But without Manning, the first pick in the NFL Draft, Ole Miss slipped to 4-7, its worst season in 10 years. The Rebels were 3-5 in the SEC and lost four games by a total of 19 points.

Bestieged BYU coach Crowton steps down

PROVO, Utah — BYU coach Gary Crowton stepped down after being asked to resign Wednesday, ending a four-year stint with the

Cougars that began with 12 straight victories and finished with three straight losing seasons. BYU was 5-6 this season and Crowton went 14-21 over the past three years, the school's worst three-year run since the early 1960s.

BYU athletic director Tom Holmoe said during a news conference with Crowton that the coach was asked for his resignation.

"At this time I feel like it's time for me to step down and let the football program move on in a different direction," Crowton said.

He replaced LaVell Edwards, who turned BYU into one of the most successful and entertaining programs in the country before retiring after 29 years as Cougars coach.

"When I took the job, following LaVell Edwards was the biggest challenge," Crowton said.

Crowton was a former Cougars assistant who was working as offensive coordinator with the Chicago Bears when he was tapped by BYU after the 2000 season.

Crowton returned to Provo with a wide-open offense that was prolific his first season and brought back memories of BYU at its best, with Edwards guiding quarterbacks such as Steve Young, Jim McMahon and Ty Detmer.

The Cougars were 12-0 in his first season before losing their final two games.

The 2003 season was BYU's worst in 30 years. The Cougars went 4-8, won only one home game and ended the season with a 3-0 loss to rival Utah that snapped a 28-year run



Under David Cutcliffe, Mississippi (4-7) ended its worst season in 10 years.

of not being shut out.

DiNardo out as Indiana's coach

INDIANAPOLIS — Gerry DiNardo was fired as Indiana's football coach after a 3-8 season that ended with a 64 loss to Purdue, the Hoosiers' seventh defeat in eight years to their state rival.

DiNardo, who has two years left on his contract, had an 8-27 record in three seasons that were marked by declining attendance.

Fred Eichhorn, president of the school's Board of Trustees, said Wednesday that DiNardo was dismissed during a meeting Tuesday. DiNardo replaced Cam Cameron after the 2001 season. After the rout by Purdue, he said "this was just about the worst day we've had as a team."

Firing of Willingham hurts BCA

By MICHAEL MAROT
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — When Notre Dame selected Tyrone Willingham as its head coach three years ago, Richard Lapchick called it the most important hire in college football history.

Lapchick, head of the Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport at the University of Central Florida, believes Willingham's firing Tuesday — coupled with the departure of two other black coaches in the past eight days — sends a different message.

"I've heard a lot of white head coaches say when they're hired, 'I knew if I worked hard and prepared hard and produced good football players, I'd get a chance to be a head coach,'" Lapchick said. "African-Americans don't have that same dream. It's a dream deferred."

The moves leave only two black head coaches in place for next season in Division I-A football: Karl Dorrell at UCLA and Sylvester Croom at Mississippi State.

In Division I-AA, when historically black institutions such as Grambling are excluded, there are no black head coaches.

In 1998, the number of I-A black coaches reached a record number of eight. This season, there were five.

The firings are a blow for the Black Coaches Association, which since 2002 has attempted to move minority hiring a more prominent issue.

"This action sends an alarming message to African-Americans who are pursuing coaching at the Division I-A level," said BCA executive director Floyd Keith. "It's still going to be tough."

Bowl games

Tuesday, Dec. 15
New Orleans Bowl
(7-4) vs. (3-8) South Miss. (6-4)
North Texas vs. Texas Tech
Champs Sports Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Georgia Tech vs. LSU
Wednesday, Dec. 22
MAC vs. WAC
Mobile, Ala.
Memphis (8-0) vs. Bowling Green (8-3)
Thursday, Dec. 23
Rivalry (Texas)
Cincinnati (6-5) vs. Marshall (6-5)
Las Vegas Bowl
At Las Vegas, Nev.
Friday, Dec. 24
Hawaii Bowl
At Honolulu
UAB (7-4) vs. WAC
Monday, Dec. 27
MPC Computers Bowl
At Boise, Idaho
Motor City Bowl
At Pontiac, Mich.
MAC vs. Connecticut (7-4)
Saturday, Dec. 28
Independence Bowl
At Shreveport, La.
Big 12 vs. ACC

Sprint Bowl
At Phoenix
Pac-10 No. 4/5 vs. Notre Dame (6-5)
Wednesday, Dec. 29
Houston Bowl
Texas-El Paso (8-3) vs. Big 12
At San Antonio
Ohio State vs. Michigan
Thursday, Dec. 30
College Football Bowl
At Charlotte, N.C.
Boston College (6-3) vs. Wake Forest (6-3)
Emerald Bowl
New Mexico (7-4) vs. Navy (8-2)
Friday, Dec. 31
Silicon Valley Classic
At San Jose, Calif.
WAC vs. MAC

Friday, Dec. 31
Mesa City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
SEC vs. Minnesota
SEC vs. Minnesota
Purdue (7-4) vs. Pac-10 No. 3
Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenn.
Boise State (11-0) vs. Louisville (9-1)
Peach Bowl
At Atlanta
ACC No. 3 vs. SEC
Saturday, Jan. 1
Cotton Bowl
At Dallas
SEC vs. Big 12 No. 2
Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
Wisconsin (9-2) vs. Georgia (8-2)
Gator Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
Florida State (8-3) vs. West Virginia (8-3)
Gator Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Iowa (9-2) vs. SEC 10/11
Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
Michigan (9-2) vs. Pac-10 champion or TBA
At Tempe, Ariz.
Monday, Jan. 3
Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
Tuesday, Jan. 4
Orange Bowl
At Miami
BCS vs. BCS
BCS vs. BCS
BCS1 vs. BCS2

★ **LIVE** ★

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Scott White Mike merryfield

Scott White Mike merryfield
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Adults Only
Free Admission
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Show contains adult humor No one under 18 please

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List: Notre Dame courting Meyer

LIST, FROM BACK PAGE

"I guess I'm one of those guys, I try to avoid it," Meyer said. "You can only avoid it for so long. I'm not going to have a team meeting to discuss it. I think our guys are still focused."

The 40-year-old Meyer has been mentioned for other jobs. He's declined comment on the Florida opening ever since Ron Zook was fired last month. Meyer has only said he and his family are happy in Utah and he plans on coaching there a long time.

Meyer left Notre Dame for his first head coaching job, at Bowling Green. He quickly turned around the Falcons, going 8-3 and 9-3 before moving to Utah in 2003. The Utes were 10-2 last season.

"He's a great coach and he's obviously had a lot of success," Utah quarterback Alex Smith said. "Whenever you're successful, somebody's going to want a piece of you. Right now, they're going to want him."

SCOREBOARD

AFN-TV & Radio

Friday

AFN-Sports, 2 a.m.—NBA: Utah at Seattle 12-11

AFN-Atlantic, 9:30 a.m.—College football: Mid-American conference championship, Toledo vs. Toledo

AFN-Sports, 10 a.m.—NBA: Houston at Cleveland

AFN-Sports, 12:30 p.m.—NBA: Dallas at Detroit

AFN-Sports, 3 p.m.—NBA: Inside the NBA, Detroit vs. Washington

AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.—College basketball: Nebraska Duke at Tennessee (D-1)

AFN-Sports, 11 p.m.—College basketball: Nebraska at Alabama-Birmingham (D-1)

AFN-Sports, 11 p.m.—College basketball: Mid-American conference championship, Miami, Ohio vs. Toledo at Cincinnati

Saturday

AFN-Sports, 9:30 a.m.—NBA: Detroit at San Antonio

AFN-Atlantic, 9:30 a.m.—College basketball: Miami at Miami

AFN-Sports, 11:30 a.m.—College basketball: Rocky Juarez vs. Guty Espadas for Juarez's NCHA title

AFN-Sports, 12:30 p.m.—NBA: Indiana at Atlanta

AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.—College basketball: Detroit at Purdue (D-1)

AFN-Sports, 9 p.m.—NBA: Detroit at San Antonio

AFN-Sports, 11 p.m.—College basketball: Detroit at Purdue (D-1)

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Division I-AA playoffs

Quarterfinals

Saturday, Dec 4

Delaware (10-2) vs. Eastern (10-2)

Marshall (10-2) vs. Eastern (10-2)

New Hampshire (10-2) vs. Eastern (10-2)

San Houston State (10-2) vs. Eastern (10-2)

Semifinals

Friday, Dec. 9 at Saturday, Dec. 11

San Houston State-Eastern Washington

Marshall-New Hampshire

Delaware-Marshall

Marshall-Marshall

Championship

Friday, Dec. 9 at Saturday, Dec. 11

At Finley Stadium/Davenport Field

Championship

Semifinal winners

Division II playoffs

Semifinals

Saturday, Dec. 4

West Chester (11-3) at Valdosta State (11-3)

North Dakota (11-2) at Pittsburg (11-3)

Championship

Saturday, Dec. 11

At Brainerd Municipal Stadium

Championship

West Chester-Valdosta State winner

Division III Playoffs

Quarterfinals

Saturday, Dec. 4

Delaware Valley (12-1) at Rowan (9-2)

Marshall (10-2) at Rowan (9-2)

Marshall (10-2) at Rowan (9-2)

Marshall (10-2) at Rowan (9-2)

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Marshall (10-2) at Rowan (9-2)

Marshall (10-2) at Rowan (9-2)

Marshall (10-2) at Rowan (9-2)

Tuesday's men's scores

EAST

Arizona St. 65, Tennessee 62

Baruch 89, Farmingdale 88

Baylor 72, Virginia 47

Boise State 72, Idaho 67

Boise State 72, Idaho 67

Boise State 72, Idaho 67

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Boise State 72, Idaho 67

Boise State 72, Idaho



San Diego Chargers tight end Antonio Gates (85) scores one of his two touchdowns against Kansas City on Sunday. Gates is second in the league in receptions and has scored 11 touchdowns.

Gates has created new hoopla

Basketball player turning heads as NFL TE

By BERNIE WILSON

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The closest Antonio Gates gets to basketball these days is on his PlayStation.

He's still somewhat of a curiosity, for sure, the former power forward who helped take Kent State within a game of the 2002 Final Four.

As every Sunday passes, though, his hoops career grows more distant. Gates continues to emerge as one of the NFL's top playmakers, a seemingly unstoppable tight end who's helping power the surprising San Diego Chargers toward a long-sought playoff berth.

Gates had a better game than Tony Gonzalez, Kansas City's five-time Pro Bowl tight end and a former college hero star himself, who had zero TD catches.

Gates has caught 11 of Stars' 21 touchdown passes and needs one more to tie the NFL record for tight ends, which is shared by four players.

He's already broken Hall of Famer Kellen Winslow's team record for touchdowns in a season by a tight end, 10 in 1981.

"For me, just being the kind of guy that I am, to hear all these special things — it's kind of like mind-boggling," said Gates, who didn't play football in college. "I play to have fun regardless of the records and the comparisons. I'm trying to build an identity for Antonio Gates."

On one hand, that's not a problem.

"You see what the guy's doing; I see him having a long and prosperous career in this league," Gates continues to baffle defenders and make fans forget "Marty Ball," the plodding, run-oriented offense once favored by coach Marty Schottenheimer. At times, offensive coordinator Cam Cameron has had Gates line up as a wide receiver and in the backfield.

Gates is second in the NFL with 69 catches (per 795 yards), one behind Tennessee's Derrick Mason. He's scored the same number of touchdowns as teammate LaDainian Tomlinson. Only three players have scored more TDs: Priest Holmes, Terrell Owens and Shaun Alexander.

The Chargers used to be brutal on third down, which is now when the 6-foot-4, 260-pound Gates makes some of his biggest plays. He leads the NFL with 24 third-down catches, including five for touchdowns.

"He's up there because of the matchups he creates," Brees said. "We've put him out there on corners and he's beat them on fades, beat them on slants, beat them on whatever we need, beat them on. He can do that. He's that kind of athlete."

Gates remains humble about his success and isn't ready to put himself in the company of players such as Owens and Gonzalez.

"They've done it time after time, year in, year out," he said. "I just consider myself as an imitator for that offense. Whatever this offense asks me to do, that's what I've got to do. You

want to feel part of something and I think right now I'm part of something special, this offense."

Gates, who joined the Chargers as an undrafted rookie in May 2003, is still learning.

Schottenheimer talked to him last week about running better after making a catch. Then Gates took off for a 51-yard gain on a fourth-quarter pass play on Sunday, only to have it come back when the Chargers were whistled for an illegal formation.

"But I did make sure that I alerted him he did a terrific job in that regard," Schottenheimer said.

As for Gates' development, "It would be less than fair to him to say that it was anything less than remarkable," Schottenheimer said. "You look at the fact that he's kind of swept on the scene. I think it's become very obvious that while people mention the basketball, he's certainly establishing his performance level to the point that really, that's what he is, a terrific National Football League receiver. And I didn't say 'tight end' I said 'receiver.'"

That still watches hoops on TV but doesn't play pickup games anymore in order to stay focused on football.

He knows people will always associate him with his hoops career. "When I played basketball, they always looked at me as a football player. When I was hitting 34, they were like, 'He's a football player.' When I was scoring two, three touchdowns, it was like, 'This is a basketball player we're talking about.'"

Gates has fun with the comparisons, especially with him and the Chargers are doing so well.

"If Cam tells me to step back and shoot the three, I can do that," he said.

NFL statistics

AFC individual leaders

Week 12

Quarterbacks	AFC	Yds	TD	Int
Manning, Ind.	352	231	3	0
Brees, S.D.	313	206	2	1
Bethel-Snyder, Pitt.	212	119	1	2
Pennington, N.Y.	214	164	3	0
Clayton, N.Y.	172	247	0	0
Plummer, Den.	354	210	2	1
Clark, N.E.	289	164	1	0
Carr, Mo.	347	216	2	1
LeFevre, Jac.	307	196	2	0
Vince, Tex.	171	100	1	0

Rushers	AFC	Yds	LG	TD
Dillon, N.Y.	234	116	40	0
James, Ind.	239	111	37	0
DeJamon, C.	216	121	48	0
R. Johnson, Cin.	248	108	31	0
Droughns, Den.	202	98	47	0
Tomlinson, S.D.	189	90	45	0
Holmes, K.C.	237	89	38	1
Brown, Tex.	186	87	42	0
McGhee, Buf.	150	78	41	0

Receivers	AFC	Yds	LG	TD
Mason, Ten.	69	795	115	29
C. Johnson, Cin.	63	710	104	53
Gonzalez, K.C.	64	638	131	32
Moulis, Buf.	63	772	123	48
Harrison, Ind.	63	764	121	52
Johnson, Mo.	62	693	104	5
Ward, Mo.	60	720	120	58
J. Smith, Jac.	59	609	95	3
Morton, K.C.	52	747	140	52

Punters	AFC	Yds	LG	TD
Lechler, Oak.	49	2327	67	47.5
Smith, Ind.	35	167	44.2	0
Hendrich, Tex.	49	2117	64	43.6
Mooms, Buf.	53	2282	68	43.2
Hanson, Jac.	52	2221	69	43.6
Jarson, Cin.	62	2649	66	42.7
Goodrick, Pitt.	54	2297	58	42.5
J. Miller, N.E.	51	1871	62.5	0
Schiff, S.D.	43	1827	60	42.5
Stanley, Mo.	43	1861	57	42.1

Punt Returns	AFC	Yds	LG	TD
Clements, Buf.	21	259	113	66
Hall, K.C.	10	118	115	46
Northington, C.	10	144	101	38
Smith, Den.	15	166	111	30
Sams, Bal.	16	166	101	36
Lewis, Jac.	27	227	99	50
Schiff, N.E.	29	373	97	34
Ward, S.D.-Mia.	22	252	93	35
Wendler, E. Pitt.	18	247	94	38
Parker, S.D.	21	183	87	32

Kick Returners	AFC	Yds	LG	TD
McGee, Buf.	41	1099	251	87
Dwight, S.D.	41	1039	251	87
Smith, Pitt.	44	1099	240	96
Alston, Oak.	28	667	238	93
R. Johnson, Cin.	37	723	231	93
T. Edwards, Jac.	15	335	223	45
Ward, Mo.	17	379	223	45
Colodis, Pitt.	17	378	222	45
Richards, Ind.	22	423	222	0

Scoring Touchdowns	AFC	Yds	LG	TD
15	11	11	0	66
15	11	11	0	66
15	11	11	0	66
15	11	11	0	66
15	11	11	0	66
15	11	11	0	66
15	11	11	0	66
15	11	11	0	66
15	11	11	0	66
15	11	11	0	66

Kicking	AFC	Yds	LG	FG	Pts
15	28	26	29	48	112
15	28	26	29	48	112
15	28	26	29	48	112
15	28	26	29	48	112
15	28	26	29	48	112
15	28	26	29	48	112
15	28	26	29	48	112
15	28	26	29	48	112
15	28	26	29	48	112
15	28	26	29	48	112

Team statistics	AVERAGE PER GAME	OFFENSE
Indianapolis	413.5	126.9
Kansas City	411.5	126.9
San Diego	364.9	138.8
Houston	364.9	138.8
Houston	364.9	138.8
Houston	364.9	138.8
Houston	364.9	138.8
Houston	364.9	138.8
Houston	364.9	138.8
Houston	364.9	138.8
Houston	364.9	138.8

Team statistics	AVERAGE PER GAME	DEFENSE
Green Bay	415.5	126.9
St. Louis	411.5	126.9
St. Louis	411.5	126.9
St. Louis	411.5	126.9
St. Louis	411.5	126.9
St. Louis	411.5	126.9
St. Louis	411.5	126.9
St. Louis	411.5	126.9
St. Louis	411.5	126.9
St. Louis	411.5	126.9
St. Louis	411.5	126.9

Team statistics	AVERAGE PER GAME	DEFENSE
Washington	267.8	101.7
Tampa Bay	267.8	101.7
New York Giants	267.8	101.7
Philadelphia	267.8	101.7
Philadelphia	267.8	101.7
Philadelphia	267.8	101.7
Philadelphia	267.8	101.7
Philadelphia	267.8	101.7
Philadelphia	267.8	101.7
Philadelphia	267.8	101.7
Philadelphia	267.8	101.7

NFC individual leaders

Week 12

Quarterbacks	NFC	Yds	TD	Int
Culpepper, Min.	352	231	3	0
McNabb, Phil.	350	224	28	22
Brady, N.E.	295	170	12	0
Favre, G.	375	244	28	22
Green, S.F.	315	212	13	0
Warner, N.Y.-G	268	168	10	7
York, Atl.	239	164	10	4
Harrington, Det.	317	181	13	1
Rattay, S.F.	304	188	20	10
DeBorja, N.Y.	365	182	19	13

Rushers	NFC	Yds	LG	TD
Alexander, Sea.	237	150	53	64
Portis, Was.	244	94	33	10
Driver, S.F.	61	804	132	50
Vick, Atl.	99	709	122	48
Clark, N.Y.G.	20	64	34	1
Smith, Ariz.	184	679	37	29
Westbrook, Phil.	163	642	40	53
Dum, Atl.	158	642	41	50
T. Jones, Chi.	149	616	41	7

Receivers	NFC	Yds	LG	TD
Bruce, S.D.	67	1026	153	56
Owens, Phil.	61	969	159	59
Walker, G.B.	60	960	160	79
Holt, S.F.	58	785	134	52
Holt, S.F.	58	785	134	52
Witter, Dal.	58	667	115	41
Cole, Was.	56	661	114	6

Punters	NFC	Yds	LG	TD
Lechler, Oak.	49	2327	67	47.5
Smith, Ind.	35	167	44.2	0
Hendrich, Tex.	49	2117	64	43.6
Mooms, Buf.	53	2282	68	43.2
Hanson, Jac.	52	2221	69	43.6
Jarson, Cin.	62	2649	66	42.7
Goodrick, Pitt.	54	2297	58	42.5
J. Miller, N.E.	51	1871	62.5	0
Schiff, S.D.	43	1827	60	42.5
Stanley, Mo.	43	1861	57	42.1

Punt Returns	NFC	Yds	LG	TD
Clements, Buf.	21	259	113	66
Hall, K.C.	10	118	115	46
Northington, C.	10	144	101	38
Smith, Den.	15	166	111	30
Sams, Bal.	16	166	101	36
Lewis, Jac.	27	227	99	50
Schiff, N.E.	29	373	97	34
Ward, S.D.-Mia.	22	252	93	35
Wendler, E. Pitt.	18	247	94	38
Parker, S.D.	21	183	87	32

Kick Returners	NFC	Yds	LG	TD
McGee, Buf.	41	1099	251	87
Dwight, S.D.	41	1039	251	87
Smith, Pitt.	44	1099	240	96
Alston, Oak.	28	667	238	93
R. Johnson, Cin.	37	723	231	93
T. Edwards, Jac.	15	335	223	45
Ward, Mo.	17	379	223	45
Colodis, Pitt.	17	378	222	45
Richards, Ind.	22	423	222	0

Scoring Touchdowns	NFC	Yds	LG	TD
15	11	11	0	66
15	11	11	0	66
15	11	11	0	66
15	11	11	0	66
15	11	11	0	66
15	11	11	0	66
15	11	11	0	66
15	11	11	0	66
15	11	11	0	66
15	11	11	0	66

Kicking	NFC	Yds	LG	FG	Pts
15	28	26	29	48	112
15	28	26	29	48	112
15	28	26	29	48	112
15	28	26	29	48	112
15	28	26	29	48	112
15	28	26	29	48	112
15	28	26	29	48	112
15	28	26	29	48	112
15	28	26	29	48	112
15	28	26	29	48	112

Team statistics	AVERAGE PER GAME	OFFENSE
Green Bay	415.5	126.9
St. Louis	411.5	126.9
St. Louis	411.5	126.9
St. Louis	411.5	126.9
St. Louis	411.5	126.9
St. Louis	411.5	126.9
St. Louis	411.5	126.9
St. Louis	411.5	126.9
St. Louis	411.5	126.9
St. Louis	411.5	126.9
St. Louis	411.5	126.9

San Francisco	309.4	92.9
San Diego	301.1	84.9
Los Angeles	271.0	105.8
San Francisco	259.6	90.9
San Francisco	256.2	103.6
San Francisco	237.3	105.5
DEFENSE		
	Yards	Rush
San Francisco	267.6	91.2
San Francisco	285.8	119.7
San Francisco	307.8	127.9
San Francisco	324.9	114.2
San Francisco	326.4	120.2

No. 10 Duke's backcourt handles Michigan St.

The Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — J.J. Redick handled the scoring for Duke in the first half against Michigan State. Daniel Ewing took over in the second half and the Blue Devils held on to remain perfect in the ACC-Big Ten Challenge.

Men's Top 25 roundup

Both guards had 29 points and both made five three-pointers as No. 10 Duke beat the 11th-ranked Spartans 81-74 on Tuesday night.

Redick had 21 points in the first half, and Ewing had 15 in the second as the Blue Devils (4-0) improved to 6-0 in the made-for-TV conference matchup and beat Michigan State (3-1) for the second straight season.

"It was definitely in the zone in

the first half," Redick said.

"I was really in the flow of the offense. It felt good, that was the first time it's been that way this year."

Ewing's last three came in the final minute, when he hit one with the shot clock winding down to give Duke a 78-73 lead. Michigan State's Paul Davis missed two free throws with 15 seconds left, part of a 3-for-8 effort from the line down the stretch for the Spartans.

"We know we're a good team," Ewing said. "We just did what we had to do."

Davis led the Spartans with 17 points and 10 rebounds.

"We just wanted to try to come down here and try to get a win," Davis said. "We weren't worried about last year. Everybody played their hearts out."

Duke beat Michigan State 72-50 last season.

In a 3-minute span late in the second half Tuesday, Ewing made a three, drove down the lane for a pull-up jumper and added a layup.

"There were a lot of good players out on that court, but he was the most mature player out there," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said of Ewing. "He had the look of a champion out on the court. J.J. was great, don't get me wrong, but Daniel was handling it and he was absolutely great."

No. 4 Georgia Tech 99, Michigan 68: B.J. Elder scored 27 points, Will Bynum had 19, and Jarrett Jack added 16 for the Yellow Jackets (4-0), who shot 54 percent from the field and led by as many as 35 points.

Courtney Sims had 17 points for visiting Michigan (3-3), which had 18 turnovers and shot just 18 percent in losing its third straight.

No. 7 Connecticut 99, Fla. International 48: Rashad Anderson scored 17 points and the Huskies (2-0) blocked a school-record 19 shots in posting the home win.

Hilton Armstrong had a career-high five blocks, and Josh Boone had four blocks and 11 rebounds for Connecticut, which finished with a 57-36 advantage on the boards.

Ivan Almonte and Ishmael N'Diaye each had 12 points for the Golden Panthers (3-2).

No. 8 Kentucky 92, Tennessee Tech 63: Keleena Azubuike scored 21 points and Chuck Hayes overcame foul trouble to add 17 points and 11 rebounds for the Wildcats (4-0).

Willie Jenkins had 18 points for the visiting Golden Eagles (1-3).

No. 25 Wisconsin 69, No. 12 Maryland 64: Alando Tucker scored a career-high 27 points



Daniel Ewing scored 29 points for the Blue Devils in their 81-74 victory over Michigan State.

and the Badgers (3-1) won their 31st consecutive home game, tying Stephen F. Austin for the longest current Division I home winning streak.

Zach Morley scored all 12 of his points over the final 7:40 for Wisconsin, including three free throws in the final 16 seconds of the ACC-Big Ten Challenge matchup.

Ekene Ibekwe scored 21 points to lead Maryland (3-1), which trailed 64-57 with a minute to play and pulled within 66-64 on a three-pointer by Nik Caner-Medley with 21 seconds remaining.

No. 19 Florida 88, Florida A&M 51: Mohamed Abukar scored a career-high 22 points to lead the Gators (4-0). The sophomore was 8-for-10 from the field, including 4-for-6 from three-point range.

Jonathan Kelly and Michael Harper each had 10 points for the Rattlers (0-4), who have lost their opening four road games by a combined 122 points.

No. 21 Arizona 98, Wyoming 70: Salim Stoudamire and freshman Jawaan McClellan each scored 19 points and the Wildcats (4-2) pulled away in the second half.

McClellan was 5-for-10 from the field, including 2-for-4 on three-pointers, and was 7-for-8 from the foul line. Stoudamire was 3-for-4 on threes.

Jay Straight scored 19 points for the Cowboys (3-1), who were playing their first road game of the season.

No. 23 Iowa 91, Drake 75: Jeff Horner and Adam Halukisa each scored 21 points and Horner added eight rebounds and six assists to lead the Hawkeyes (4-1) to the road win.

Aliou Keita had a career-high 23 points for the Bulldogs (1-2), who have lost 26 straight to their in-state rival.

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WIN CASH!

**Mondays in Stars and Stripes
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AA teams reload after standouts leave

BY DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

Defending champion Kubasaki and fellow Final Four finishers Seoul American and Kadena have obstacles to overcome before they can return to the 2005 Far East Girls Class AA Tournament semifinals.

Each has plenty of talent but also some important parts to replace and some adjusting to do along the way.

■ Kadena must make up for the loss of do-everything point guard Theresa Gittens, three-point shooter Katie LaGrave and defensive specialist Kim Lyle.

■ Charlotte Hicks and Seoul American must replace the height that helped carry the Falcons to a fourth straight third-place Class AA finish: Whitney Blain graduated, and Ashley Grandy transferred.

"We're going to have to run," said Hicks, who said she's seeking some tune-up games with Korean schools who "can come in and run us to death."

■ And a season after capturing its first Class AA crown since 1993, Kubasaki finds itself reduced from trees to shrubs. Tall post players Shanea McDaniel, Sharon Sumter and Monique Pearson graduated and Anna Grady transferred, leaving the Dragons also without much height.

"Last year, we had six impact players and a big back line," Driggs said. "It's going to take some adjusting and playing a different style."

"That appears to be a common theme among title contenders."

Kadena and Kubasaki broke out of the gate smartly. After dropping their Okinawa-American League opener to Japanese teams, the Panthers took first place and the Dragons third in the 35th Hong Kong International School Holiday Tournament.

In game Driggs, however, is a good sign at what he thinks can be a ballduck that can challenge for a repeat Class AA crown, but not without a great deal of work.

"We're back to that puzzle," the four-time Class AA title coach said. "It was nice having those dominant backliners, the rebounding, the shot-blocking. We have to put the parts together and play differently from the way we did."

That will mean having junior Kristi McNair and senior Erin Foote in the backcourt and senior forward Ka'leen Mathieu get out and run the floor to try to force opponents into mistakes — a far cry from last season's half-court offense and tight zone defenses.

"I don't think we'll sweep them off the court, but we have the potential," Driggs said. "Last year was one of those premium years. Hopefully, we'll get some things together."



JIM SCHULZ/Stars and Stripes

Zama American junior Eli Legaspi practices her shot in preparation for the 2004-05 high school season.

Seoul American will host the Class AA tournament this season, giving Hicks and her players an advantage they have never had.

"It's wonderful to say we're going to be here, we don't have to worry about the hassle of catching planes, get up at 6 a.m. to get to wherever they have to be by 8 p.m. It's nice," she said. "They can be relaxed, they can be in an environment that they're used to."

Though short on height, the team has the experience and skill of seniors Amy Bakamer in the backcourt and Janel Daniels up front.

But for the first time since Seoul International's three-year title run ended in 1992, the Falcons face formidable league opponents in Osan American and Taegu American. "We may get beat a few times, which will be good for us," Hicks said.

In one practice, she ran her charges until they were exhausted.

"And they never gave up, which was nice," she said. "But it's a young group of kids. They have potential. It's how they develop."

Kadena's key components in Osan American are Taegu American. "We may get beat a few times, which will be good for us," Hicks said.

But how to replace such key components as LaGrave, Gittens and Lyle?

"You don't try," said Panthers assistant coach Chrystal Smith, herself an All-Far East Player. "You just try to be thankful for the talent that you have and press on with the season."

E-mail Dave Ornauer at: ornauer@pstris.com

2004-05 Class AA girls basketball capsules

Korea Seoul American Falcons

Yongsan Garrison, South Korea
Coach: Charlotte Hicks, 19th season.
Last season: Overall, 24-4; league, 14-0.
In Korean-American interscholastic Activities Conference; third in Far East Class AA tournament.
Key returners: Amy Bakamer, senior, guard; Janel Daniels, senior, forward; Chivonne Floyd, junior, guard-forward; Colleen Achary, sophomore, guard; Whitney Smith, senior, center.
Key newcomers: Ella Anglade, freshman, guard; Angelica Lee, freshman, guard; Germany Tillman, junior, guard.

Outlook: Not much height, so will have to run the floor. May find league opposition to be stronger than in past years, but should contend for their 13th straight league title and a Final Four Class AA finish on their home court.

Okinawa Kubasaki Dragons

Camp Foster, Okinawa
Coach: Bob Driggs, 14th season.
Last season: Overall, 22-0; Okinawa-American League, 6-2; Okinawa Activities Council, 13-1; defending Far East Class AA Tournament champions.
Key returners: Erin Foote, senior, guard; Kristi McNair, junior, guard; Ka'leen Mathieu, senior, forward; Kimi Cecil, sophomore, guard.
Key newcomers: Brandi Amos, junior, guard; Ashley Grandy, freshman, guard; Raelene Tjalling, freshman, guard; Seraila Smith, senior, post.
Outlook: Could change from a lineup packed with tall trees to one bereft of such height. Driggs will adjust accordingly, run the floor and play pressure defense to compensate.

Kadena Panthers

Kadena Air Base, Okinawa
Coach: Ken Hudson, third season.
Last season: Overall, 38-0; Okinawa-American League, 5-1; Okinawa Activities Council, 24-0; fourth Far East Class AA Tournament.
Key returners: Dianne Abel, junior, guard; Janel Daniels, senior, forward; Sherissa Dukes, senior, guard; Britney McCawley, senior, guard; Monica Moore, junior, forward; Lyle Cotto, junior, guard.
Outlook: Panthers will miss leadership of Theresa Gittens, defense of Kim Lyle and shooting of Katie LaGrave, all graduated, and Kadena has gotten out of game slowly with Hong Kong International School Holiday Tournament title. Panthers have moved on.

Japan

Nile C. Kinnick Red Devils

Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan
Coach: Henry Falk, sixth season.
Last season: Overall, 29-4; Kanto Plain Association of Secondary Schools, 17-0; Japan League, 8-0; first in JB, and Kanto Plain, fifth in Far East Class AA Tournament.

Key returners: Lushall Johnson, junior, guard; Isomine, freshman, guard; Corinne Ray, senior, forward; Ashley Meilin, senior, forward; Stephanie Galt, senior, sophomore, guard.
Key newcomers: Tomika Lynce, freshman, guard; Sarah Green, junior, guard.
Outlook: Freshman, third season of graduated Kato Toshiyuki will be missed, but inpatient to complement Johnson's shooting and Jordan's ability. Good mix of veterans and young players. Likely to contend for league and Class AA titles.

Yokota Panthers

Yokota Air Base, Japan
Coach: Brian Caldwell, third season.
Last season: Overall, 12-13; Japan League, 5-5; Kanto Plain, 9-6; fourth in JB, second in Kanto.
Key returners: Carl Brusch, senior, guard; Darlene Seale, senior, guard; Naama Ham, senior, guard; Jena Young, junior; China Rado, junior; Victoria Sany, junior.
Key newcomers: Andriela Thomas, senior; Kiki Howell, freshman; Charlotte Taylor, freshman.
Outlook: Panthers will again lack height, but plenty of athleticism in incoming Thoms, who also starred in volleyball. Brusch and Seale provide leadership and experience. Young team may play regarding coaching: Cabral was a three-time All-Far East Player. Good mix of veterans and youth, all coachable.

Zama American Trojans

Camp Zama, Japan
Coach: Parrish and Veronica Jones, second season.
Last season: Overall, 13-14; Japan League, 7-8; Kanto Plain Association of Secondary Schools, 7-9; second in JB, fourth in Kanto.
Key returners: Kate Shicks, junior, guard; Eli Legaspi, junior, guard.
Key newcomers: Tiffany Wright, junior, center; Savannah Stockland, junior, center.
Outlook: Trojans boast a good balanced lineup, but may lack last year's team have left. Handful of players who have played in largest meet but lack experience on the bench might hinder them.

Robert D. Edgen Eagles

Missair Air Base, Japan
Coach: Sarah Richardson, 15th season.
Last season: Overall, 18-14; Japan League, 11-7; third in JB.
Key returners: Samantha Johnson, senior, forward; Kalliah Gaines, junior, center; Gerdyn Calhoun, junior, forward; Stephanie Patrick, junior, guard; Brandi Calhoun, sophomore, guard; Kristyne Horsley, sophomore, guard.
Key newcomers: Monica Hayes, freshman, guard; Ashley Adams, senior, forward; LaTricia Calhoun, sophomore, forward.

Outlook: A few nagging injuries have hindered development in practice, but Richardson foresees a young team that will work hard and be more competitive and experienced than last year.

Giants sign Benitez while Mets try to woo Martinez

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — While Mets fans discussed whether their team has a chance to land Pedro Martinez, former New York closer, Armando Benitez found a new club, agreeing Tuesday to a \$21.5 million, three-year contract with the San Francisco Giants.

Cincinnati, meanwhile, retained a key part of its rotation, agreeing to re-sign ex-Met Paul Wilson for \$8.2 million over two years.

Martinez isn't close to making a decision on how to sign, a person close to the free-agent ace said on condition of anonymity, and is likely to wait until the New York Yankees determine their level of interest. That could hinge on whether they acquire Randy Johnson from Arizona in a trade that could send Javier Vazquez to the Diamondbacks.

The Mets, trying to make a splash in the free-agent market,

offered a \$37.5 million, three-year contract last weekend, an agent with knowledge of the proposal said, also on condition of anonymity. The offer contains an option for a fourth season that could make the deal worth \$50 million over four years, the agent said.

Boston has offered a two-year offer to retain Martinez, but he decided by Dec. 7 whether to offer salary arbitration, which would extend the window for the World Series champion Red Sox to re-sign him until Jan. 8.

Martinez's agent, Fernando Cuza, would not comment on the Mets' proposal, which was first reported Tuesday in several New York and Boston newspapers. New Mets general manager Omar Minaya declined comment.

Yankees owner George Steinbrenner met with Martinez in Tampa, Fla., on Nov. 18, and Martinez also met in Florida with New York third baseman Alex Rodriguez.

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SPORTS



Ravens aren't letting an alarming number of injuries hurt their playoff push, Page 28

Duke topples Michigan State



J.J. Redick (4), shooting over Michigan State's Kelvin Torbert (23), had 29 points — 21 in the first half — to lead No. 10 Duke to an 81-74 victory over No. 11 Michigan State in Durham, N.C., on Tuesday. The Atlantic Coast Conference has won four of five games in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge. See Page 29 for details.

Rockets' fourth straight loss turns fans against Van Gundy; Two Pistons fans banned from arena

Page 31



Gates jamming in S.D. Page 27



Kinnick among teams chasing Okinawa powerhouses in Far East Class AA girls basketball

Page 30



Utah football coach Urban Meyer, left, with wife Shelley, and daughter, Gigi, has compiled a 21-2 record in two seasons at Utah. Meyer, 40, was an assistant coach at Notre Dame from 1996-2000.

Utah's Meyer tops Irish's list

Tedford, Ferentz and Gruden also considered candidates

BY DOUG ALDEN
The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Notre Dame is looking for a coach, and Utah's Urban Meyer could be among the top candidates to take over college football's most glamorous program.

Meyer, a Fighting Irish assistant for five years, couldn't avoid answering questions on the topic after Tyrone Willingham was fired Tuesday. Meyer has a clause in his contract that allows him to leave to coach Notre Dame without a buyout.

"I have great respect for that university," Meyer said Tuesday after leading his fifth-ranked Utes (11-0) through practice. "That's the reason it's in my contract."

"I think a lot of people look into it more than what it is. I'm sure that this is going to spark a lot of discussion, but I'm just trying to get a team ready to play in a bowl game."

While Notre Dame (6-5) was reconsidering whether to play in

the Insight Bowl, Utah is set to become the first non-BCS school to play in a Bowl Championship Series game — most likely the Fiesta Bowl.

Meyer isn't the only candidate to surface. Others include California coach Jeff Tedford, Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz and Tampa Bay Buccaneers coach Jon Gruden.

Tedford has had success at a school with high academic expectations similar to Notre Dame's; Ferentz was hired at Maine in 1990 by current Notre Dame athletic director Kevin White; and Gruden was mentioned prominently in the Notre Dame search three years ago. Gruden grew up in South Bend and his father was an assistant under former Irish coach Dan Devine.

Meyer, though, is the top name right now. He talked to a few players who asked him about the Notre Dame opening. The coach declined to say whether he would be interested if the school called.

SEE LIST ON PAGE 25

New job openings at BYU, Ole Miss, Indiana Page 25

